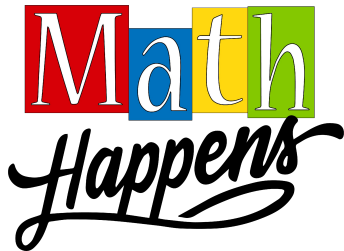


AIM Special Session on Math Circles for Makers, Creators, and Artists, III

JMM 2025 Thursday 1/09/25 9:30 - 10 am

“Recreational Math from the Book Series La Science
Amusante by Tom Tit, Librairie Larousse-Paris”



Lauren Siegel
Executive Director, MathHappens Foundation
www.mathhappens.org
Austin, Texas





[SVG Activity Sheet](#)

[PDF Activity Sheet](#)

Paris 2022 Matrix - Imaginary Conference, Within a walk....

Institute Poincare

Antique Book Stores

Cabaret

Pantheon

Cafes



Out in the suburbs on Saturday....





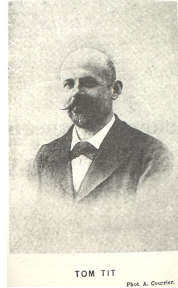
A lot of old math books!

- Children's Math
- Rural School Math for Adults
- Addition and Subtraction for Primary Schools

These seemed special!

La Science Amusante is a three-volume book by Tom Tit (real name Arthur Good) that was published in Paris in 1890, 1892, and 1893. The book is a collection of articles about scientific experiments that use everyday objects, which were previously published in the French magazine *L'Illustration*.

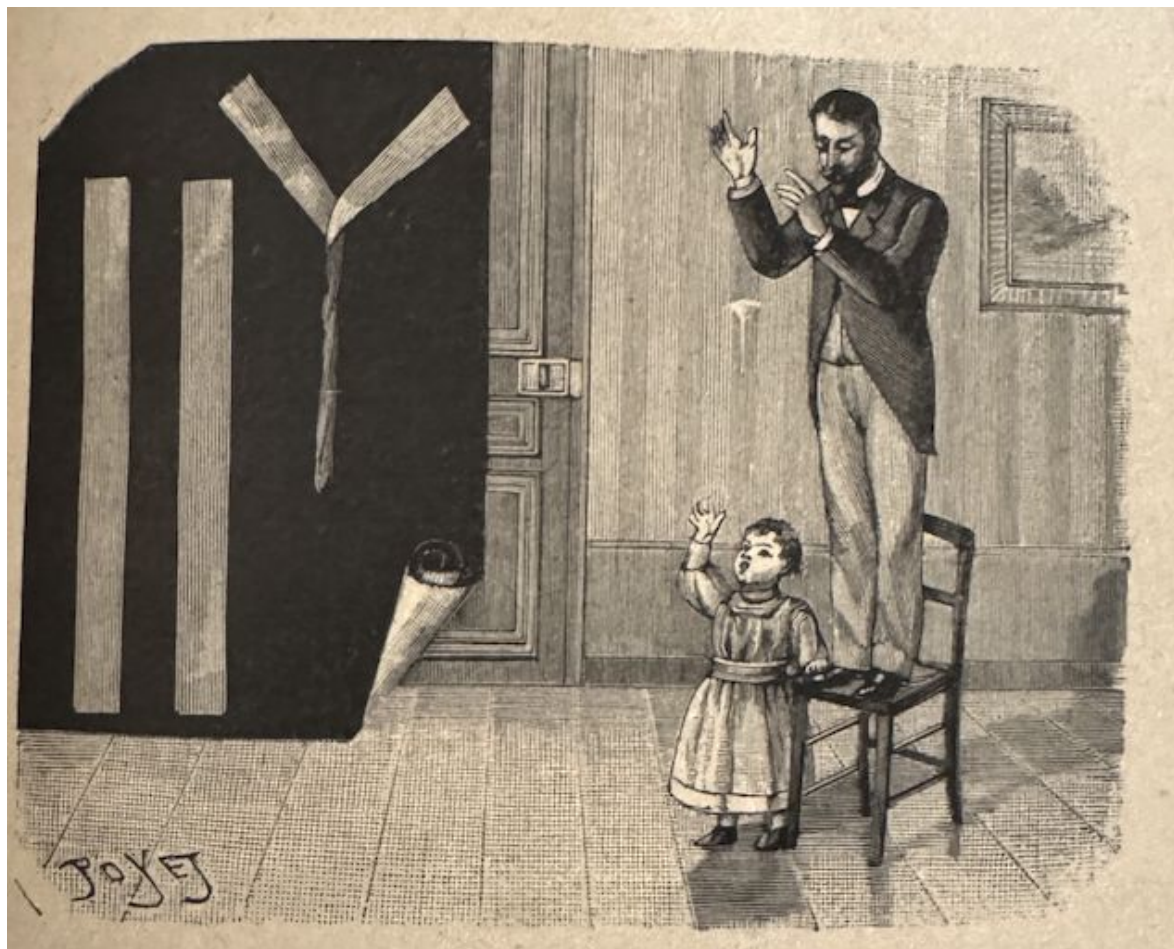
La Science Amusante Series
300 Nouvelles Experiences
By Arthur Goode/Tom Tit

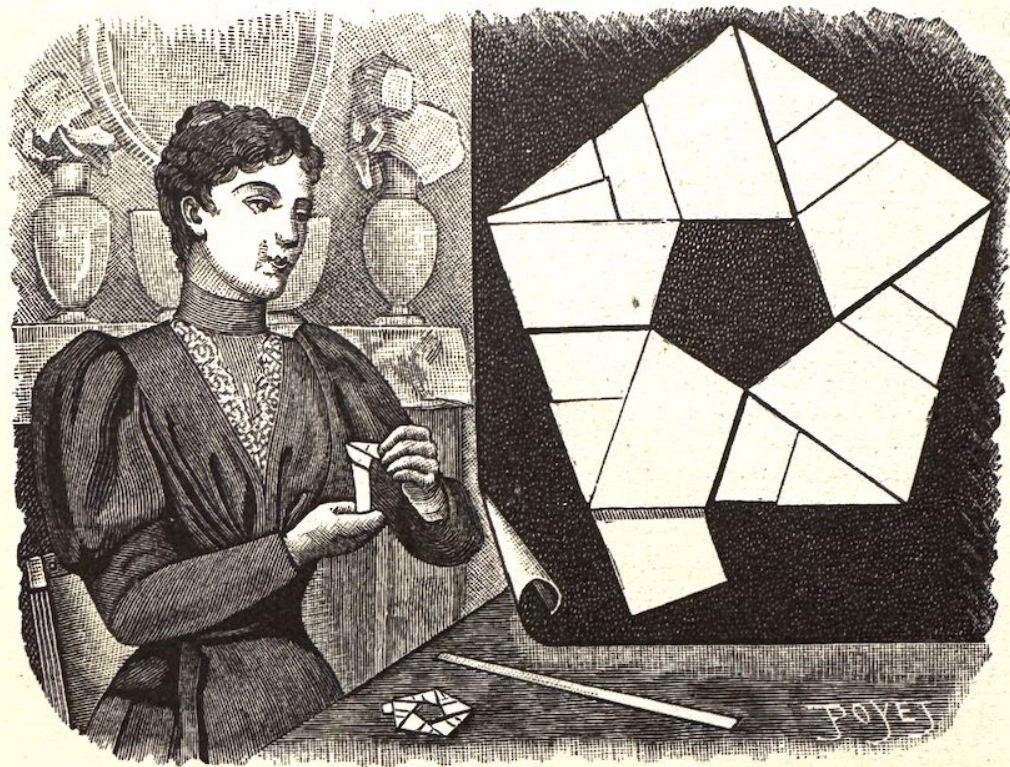


[Online version \(third book\):](https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=Jg-e60eEyO0C&pg=GBS.PA194&hl=en)

<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=Jg-e60eEyO0C&pg=GBS.PA194&hl=en>





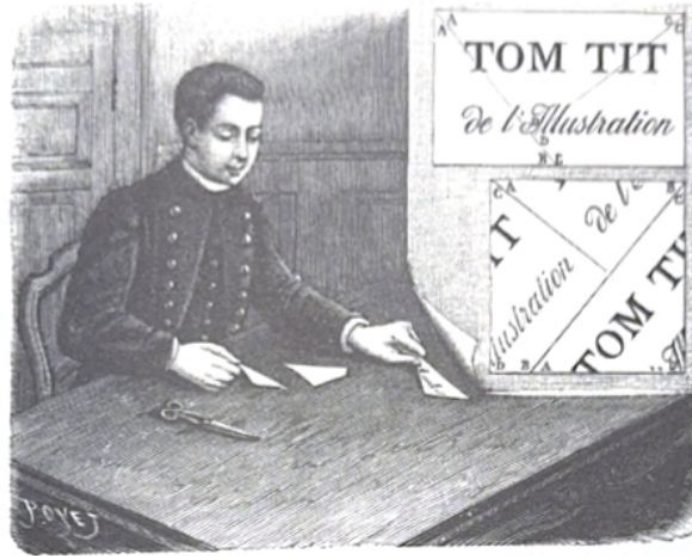


Les sept Pentagones.



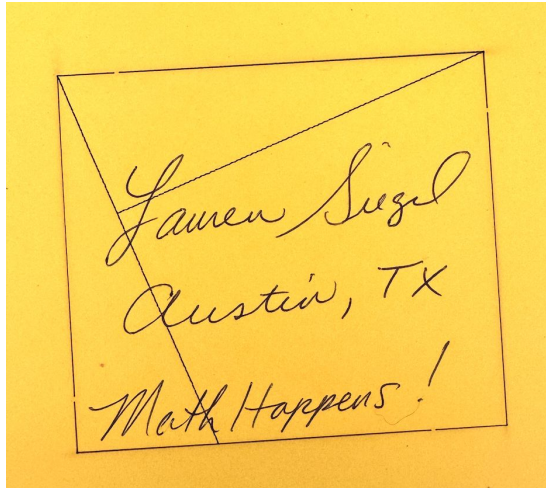
Calling Card Activities: Rectangle to a Square in 2 cuts

V. — PROBLÈMES

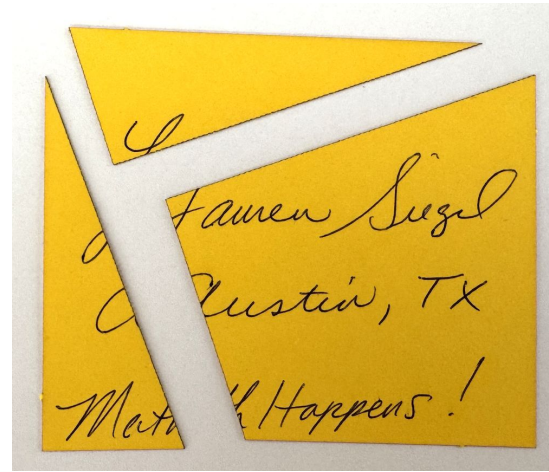
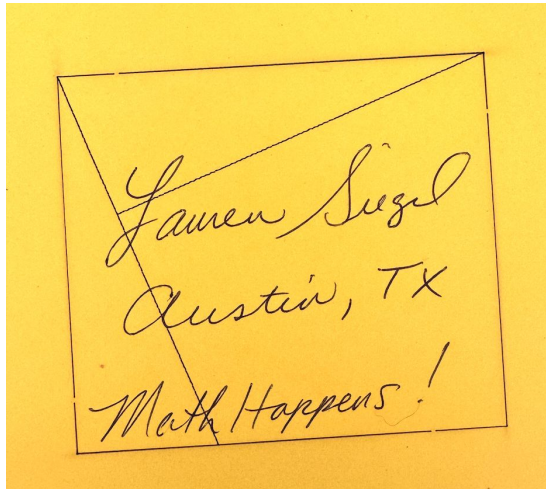


Rectangle changé en carré, en deux coups
de ciseaux.

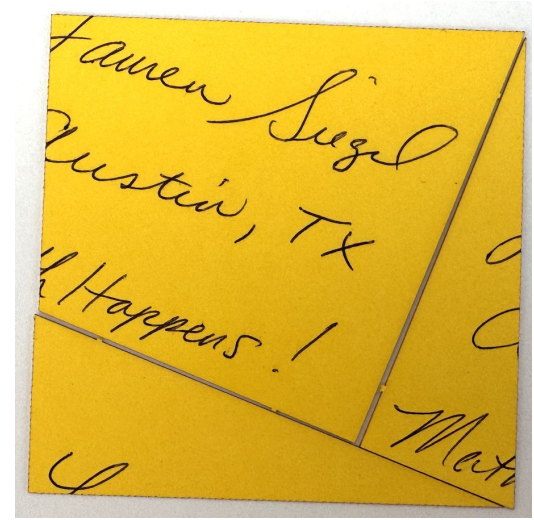
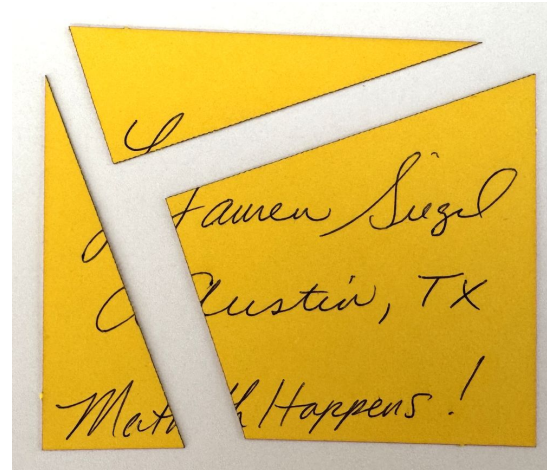
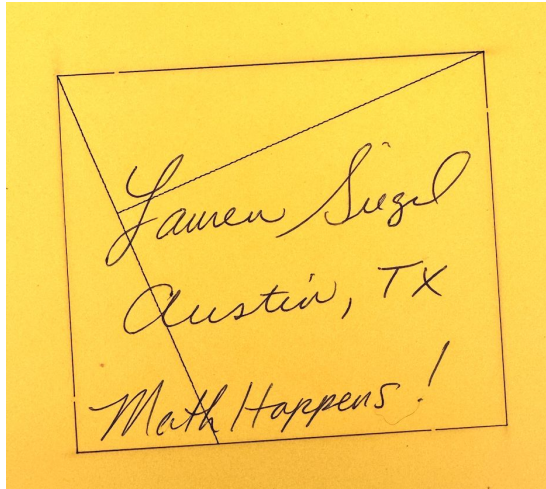
Select a calling card, add your name, break it apart and rearrange into a square.



Select a calling card, add your name, break it apart and rearrange into a square.

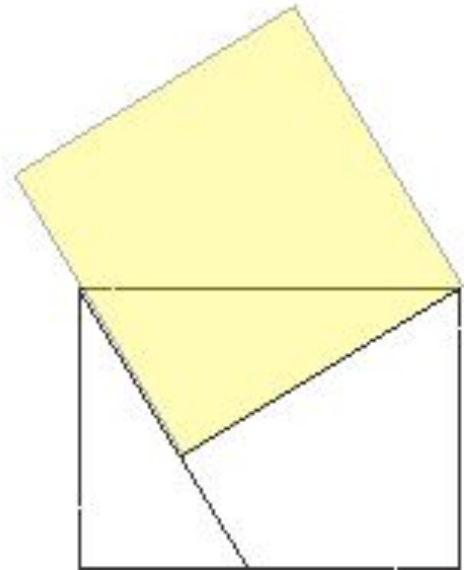
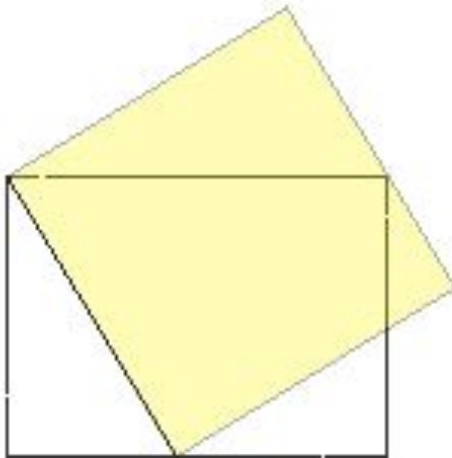


Select a calling card, add your name, break it apart and rearrange into a square.

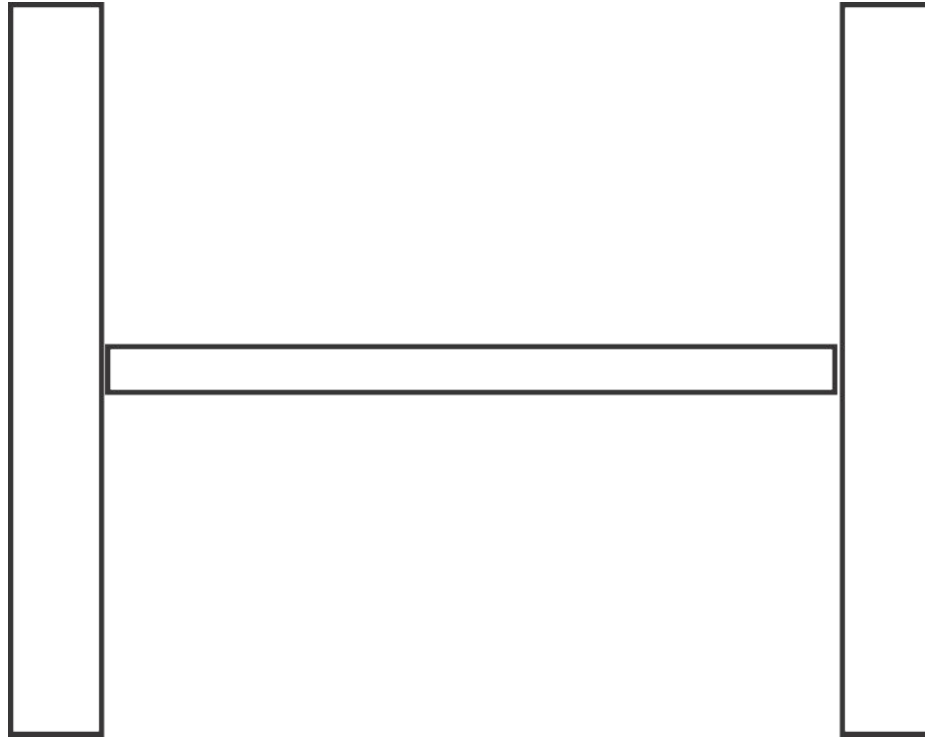


Make your own using a Rectangle and Square of Equal Area

What is happening here?

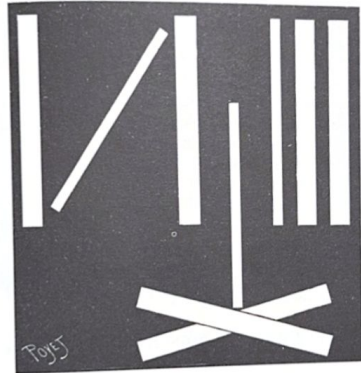


Calling Card Activities: Optical Illusion



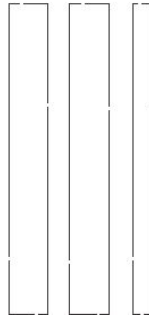
Which is longer?

Calling Card Activities: Optical Illusion

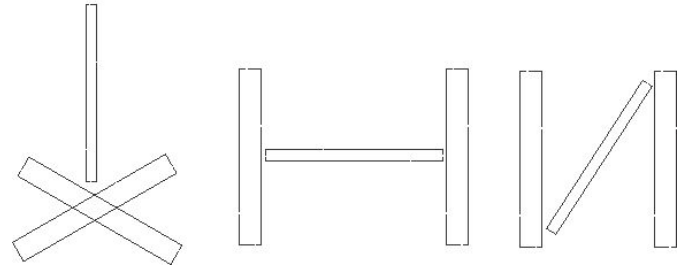


Illusion d'optique :
LIGNES VERTICALES ET HORIZONTALES.

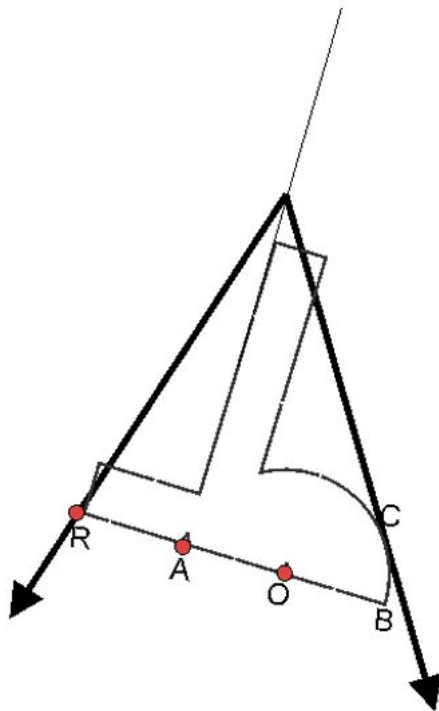
Cut three equal strips with
the third $\frac{1}{2}$ as thick as the
first two.



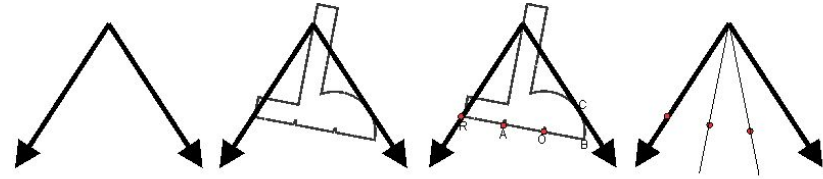
Arrange as follows:



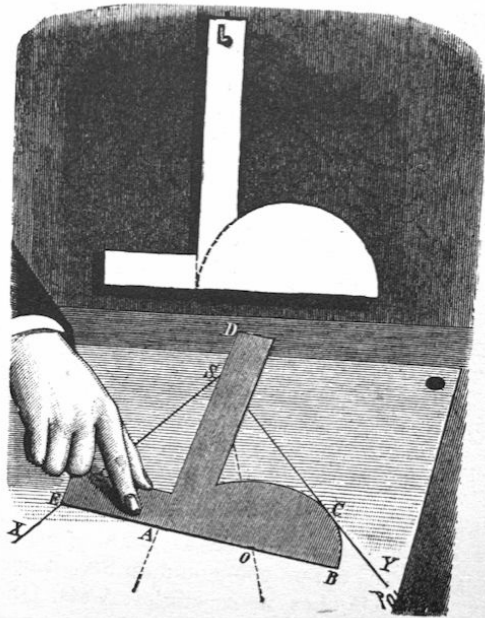
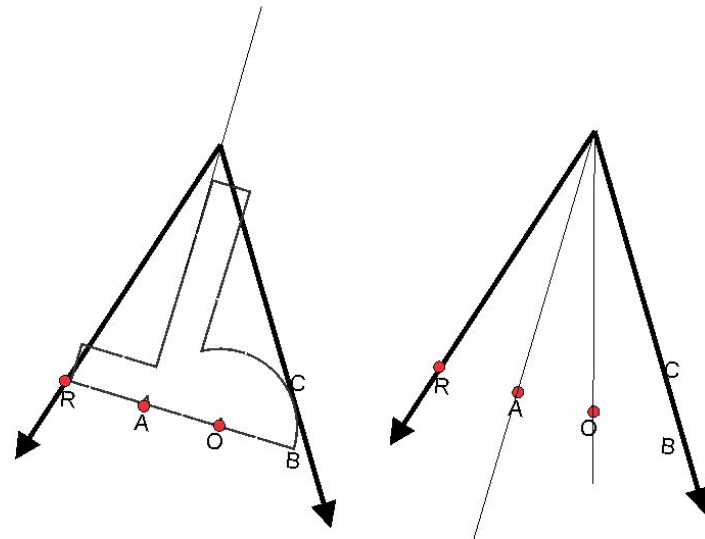
Calling Card Activities: Use this Tool to Trisect any angle



Notice the location of R, A, O, B and C trisect the the angle!



Two Examples. Guidance on the proof is in the text



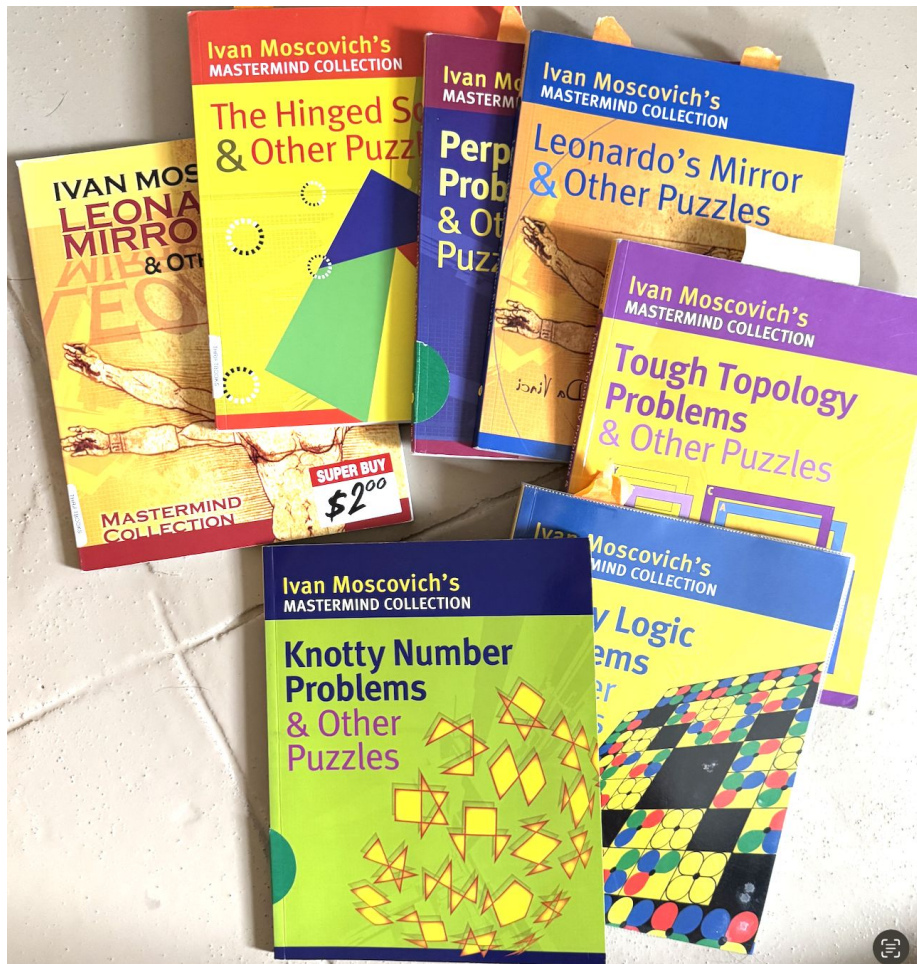
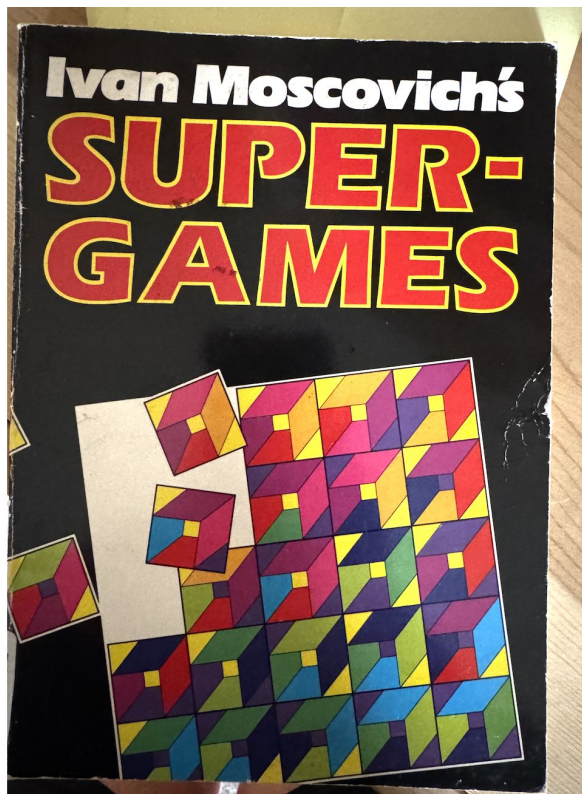
La Trisection de l'angle.

Scans from the Books, with text in French



Translate with the photo function on your phone to find the instructions and further explanations in the books.

Where else can you find great ideas for math-making projects?



REDISCOVERED LEWIS CARROLL PUZZLES



Newly Compiled and Edited by Edward Wakeling

The Impossible Hole

Another party trick that Lewis Carroll performed concerned two coins, a sixpence and a half-penny. Readers will remember that a sixpence is smaller in size than a half-penny. The relative sizes are illustrated here:



sixpence



half-penny

Lewis Carroll would draw round the sixpence on a piece of paper, and then cut out the circular hole so that it was exactly the size of the sixpenny coin. He would then pose the question: "Can you put the ha'penny through it?"

Seems impossible, but there is a way. How does the ha'penny go through the smaller hole?



1824 Textile Patterns by Japanese Artist Hokusai

{ BnF Gallica

Katsushika, Hokusai (1760-1849). Illustrateur. / [] : 1824.

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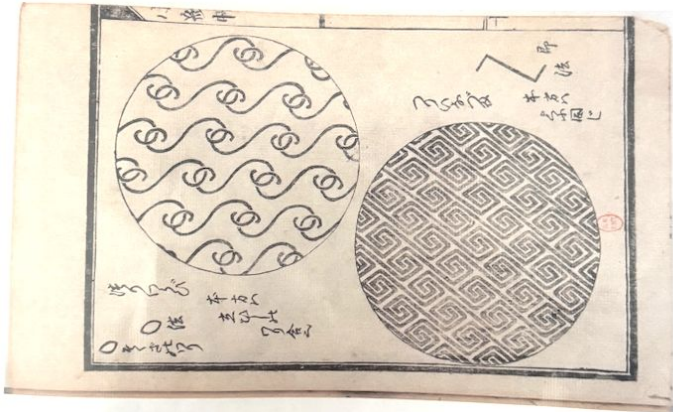
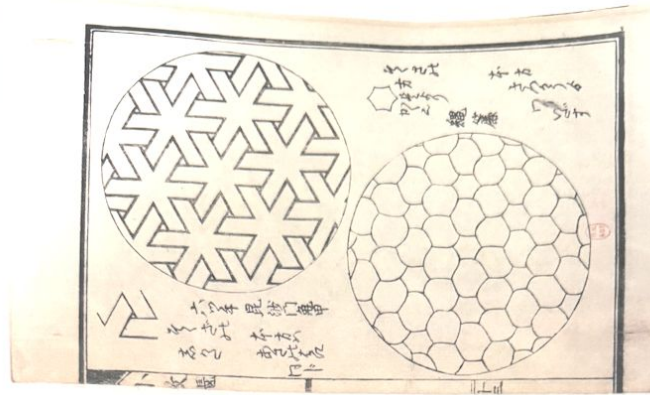
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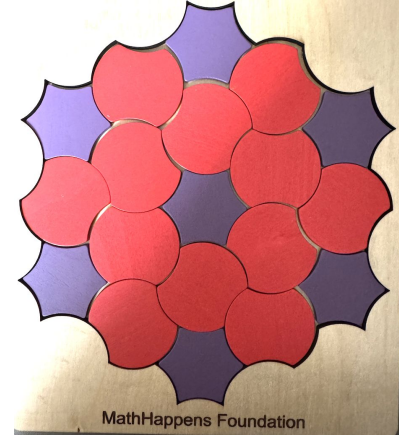
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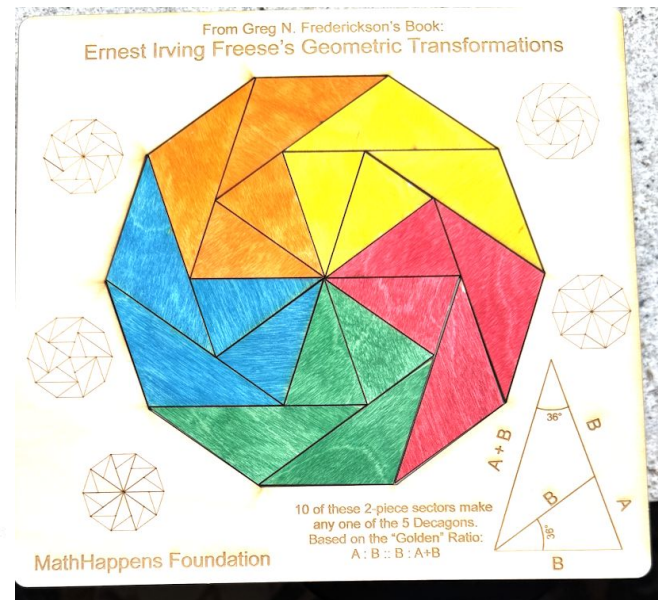
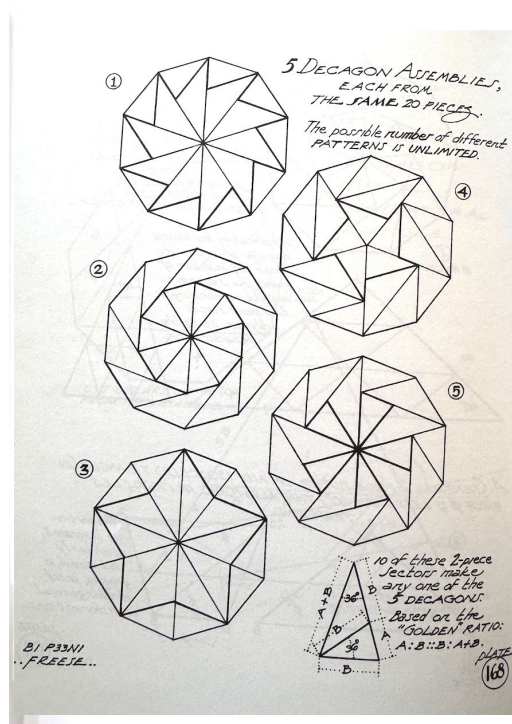
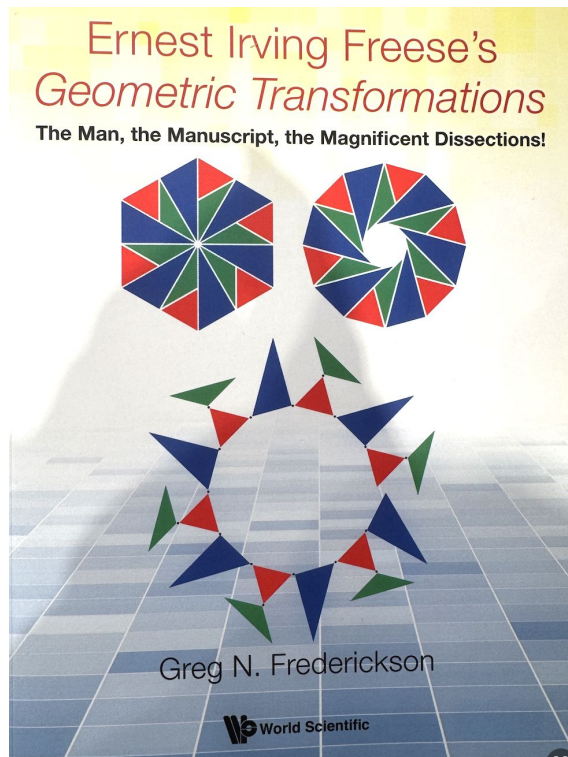
Bubble Tile Large Frame



MathHappens Foundation

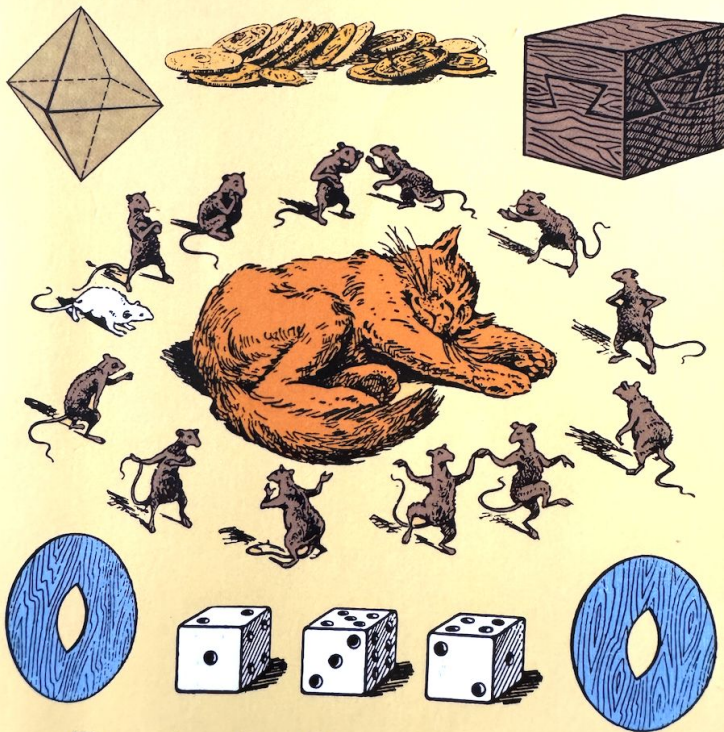


Lost Manuscripts with 200 Hand drawn Plates. (1950's)



THE MOSCOW PUZZLES

359 Mathematical Recreations



Boris A. Kordemsky

1956

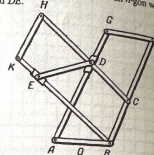
196. A HINGED MECHANISM FOR CONSTRUCTING REGULAR POLYGONS

You can build a simple mechanism with which you can construct any regular n -sided polygon for $n = 5$ through 10.

The mechanism consists of movable rods forming two congruent parallelograms $ABFG$ and $BCHK$ (first diagram). Rod DE is fastened to sliders D and E which move freely along AG and BK respectively. $AB = BC = CD = DE$. When DE moves the parallelograms are unaffected, and trapezoids $ABCD$ and $BCDE$ remain con-

The Moscow Puzzles

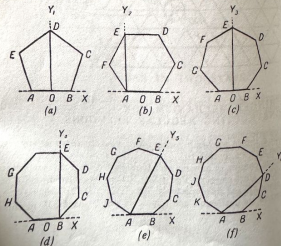
gruent. This assures the equality of the 3 angles of an n -gon whose four corners are $AB, BC, CD, \text{ and } DE$.



Methods of constructing regular n -gons for $n = 5$ through 10 are based on the characteristics (diagrams a to f below):

- a: $\angle DOB = 90^\circ$ in a pentagon.
- b: $\angle EAB = 90^\circ$ in a hexagon.
- c: $\angle EOB = 90^\circ$ in a heptagon.
- d: $\angle EBA = 90^\circ$ in an octagon.
- e: $\angle EAB = 60^\circ$ in a nonagon.
- f: $\angle DAB = 36^\circ$ in a decagon.

To construct the first four, form right angles $Y_1OX, Y_2AX, Y_3OX,$ and Y_4B , then place the mechanism with rod AB on the straight line AB , supporting [it]

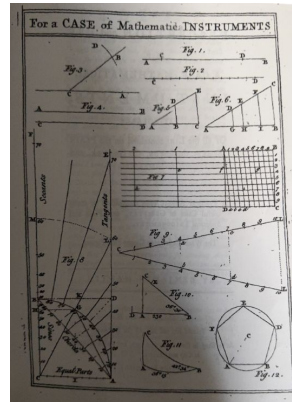
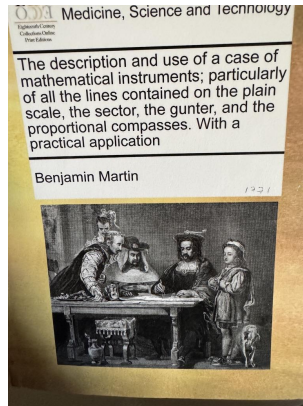
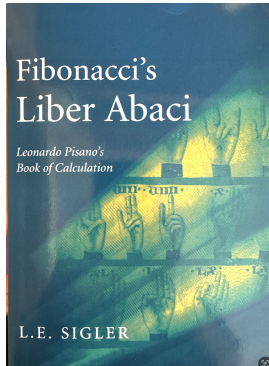


Look in Books!

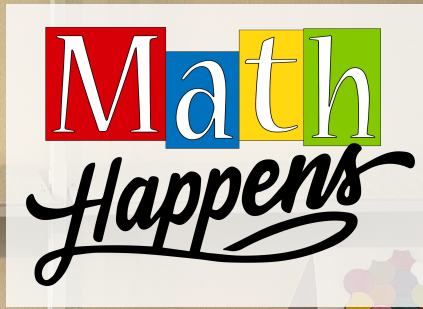
Rhind Papyrus 1550 BC

Liber Acii 1202

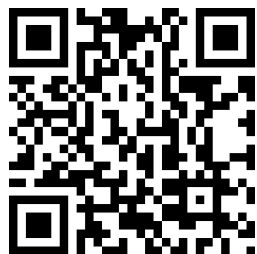
Mathematical Instruments 1771



Get carried away!



THANK YOU!



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www.mathhappens.org
lsiegel@mathhappens.org
Austin, TX

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