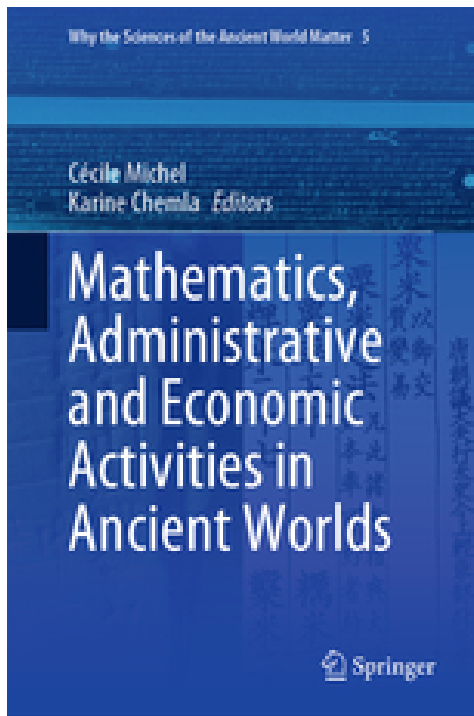


# Mathematics, Administrative and Economic Activities in Ancient Worlds



Editors: **Michel**, Cécile, **Chemla**, Karine (Eds.), *Why the Sciences of the Ancient World Matter 5*, Springer: Cham, 2020, ISBN 978-3-030-48388-3.

This book focuses on the ancient Near East, early imperial China, South-East Asia, and medieval Europe, shedding light on mathematical knowledge and practices documented by sources relating to the administrative and economic activities of officials, merchants and other actors. It compares these to mathematical texts produced in related school contexts or reflecting the pursuit of mathematics for its own sake to reveal the diversity of mathematical practices in each of these geographical areas of the ancient world. Based on case studies from various periods and political, economic and social contexts, it explores how, in each part of the world discussed, it is possible to identify and describe the

different cultures of quantification and computation as well as their points of contact. The thirteen chapters draw on a wide variety of texts from ancient Near East, China, South-East Asia and medieval Europe, which are analyzed by researchers from various fields, including mathematics, history, philology, archaeology and economics. The book will appeal to historians of science, economists and institutional historians of the ancient and medieval world, and also to Assyriologists, Indologists, Sinologists and experts on medieval Europe.

- Combines perspectives from history of mathematics, economics and administrative history with textual, and archaeological perspectives
- Offers new interpretations of administrative and economic texts, drawing on an analysis of their connections with mathematical activities
- Discusses the variety of mathematical cultures in Mesopotamia, in the South Asian subcontinent, in China and in Medieval Europe
- Sheds light on key basic mathematical concepts like area and volume