Dirichlet; Kummer; Hensel; Frobenius; Hilbert


The well known series “Teubner = Archiv” is continued with 5 obituaries, all of them written by famous mathematicians. These obituaries had been published previously in different journals: 1. “J. Reine Angew. Math.” (Dirichlet: obituary on Jacobi), 2. and 4. “Abh. Akad. Wiss. Berlin” (Kummer: obituary on Dirichlet, Frobenius: on Kronecker), 3. “Abh. Gesch. Math.” (Hensel: centenary celebration of Kummer), 5. “Nachr. Ges. Wiss. Gött.” (Hilbert: obituary on Weierstraß). The obituaries are of different length, between 10 and 37 pp. which means some give more details than others. These 5 mathematicians belong to 2 different periods. 1. Jacobi (1804-1851) and Dirichlet (1805-1860) were together with Gauss the most important mathematicians in the first half of the 19th century; Kummer (1810-1893), Kronecker (1823-1891) and Weierstraß (1815-1897) were dominant in the second half. With them Berlin developed into one of the main centers in the scientific world. The last chapter consists of photographs of 9 documents, which are related with these 5 mathematicians. But these documents are not transcribed or interpreted. At the end the reader finds an index as well as pictures of the 5 mathematicians in question.

Reviewer: K. Reich

MSC:
01A75 Collected or selected works; reprintings or translations of classics
01A55 History of mathematics in the 19th century
01A70 Biographies, obituaries, personalia, bibliographies
01-01 Introductory exposition (textbooks, tutorial papers, etc.) pertaining to history and biography

Biographic references: