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KNOTS AND BORROMEAN RINGS, REP-TILES, AND EIGHT QUEENS

Martin Gardner's Unexpected Hanging

For 25 years, Martin Gardner (1914–2010) wrote "Mathematical Games and Recreations," a monthly column for *Scientific American* magazine. These columns have inspired hundreds of thousands of readers to delve more deeply into the large world of mathematics. He also made significant contributions to magic, philosophy, debunking pseudoscience, and children's literature. He produced more than 60 books, including many best-sellers, most of which are still in print, and wrote a regular column for the *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine from 1983 to 2002. His *Annotated Alice* has sold more than a million copies. (The photograph is of the author at the time of the first edition.)

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From 1957 through 1986 Martin Gardner wrote the "Mathematical Games and Recreations" columns for *Scientific American* that are the basis for these books. *Scientific American* editor Dennis Flanagan noted that this column contributed substantially to the success of the magazine. The exchanges between Martin Gardner and his readers gave life to these columns and books. These exchanges have continued, and the impact of the columns and books has grown. These new editions give Martin Gardner the chance to bring readers up to date on newer twists on old puzzles and games, on new explanations and proofs, and on links to recent developments and discoveries. Illustrations have been added and existing ones improved, and the bibliographies have been greatly expanded throughout.

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For My Niece
Dorothy Elise Weaver

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Frontmatter
More information

Contents

Acknowledgments *page* xi

1	The Paradox of the Unexpected Hanging	1
2	Knots and Borromean Rings	16
3	The Transcendental Number *e*	28
4	Geometric Dissections	38
5	Scarne on Gambling	50
6	The Church of the Fourth Dimension	62
7	Eight Problems	75
8	A Matchbox Game-Learning Machine	91
9	Spirals	106
10	Rotations and Reflections	117
11	Peg Solitaire	127
12	Flatlands	143
13	Chicago Magic Convention	154
14	Tests of Divisibility	168
15	Nine Problems	179
16	The Eight Queens and Other Chessboard Diversions	196
17	A Loop of String	209
18	Curves of Constant Width	223
19	Rep-Tiles: Replicating Figures on the Plane	246
20	Thirty-Six Catch Questions	259

Index 271

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