Profiles in Mathematics
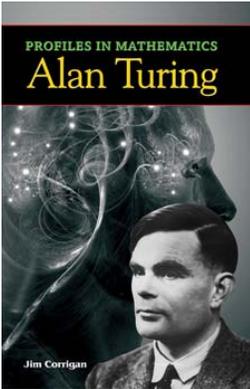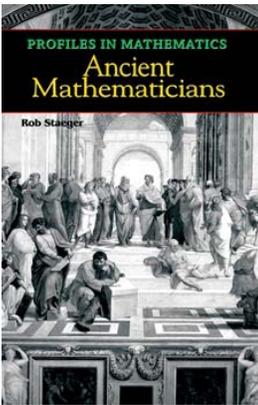
School Library Journal

October, 2008

CORRIGAN, Jim. *Alan Turing*. 112p. (Profiles in Mathematics Series). photos. reprods. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2008. PLB $27.95. ISBN 978-1-59935-064-6. LC 2007011704.

Gr 8 Up–British mathematician Turing (1912-1954) contributed much to what we now call artificial intelligence and computer science. He worked during World War II as a code breaker and used his skills to solve complex German codes, especially the Enigma cipher. But his life was one of difficulty and challenges that often made it hard for him to work effectively. Sometimes his incredible shyness came across as aloofness. A homosexual relationship in 1952 caused him legal woes. It was against the law, and he pled guilty to gross indecency. He was sentenced to a year of probation and hormonal drug therapy. On June 7, 1954, Turing was found dead in his apartment. His death was ruled a suicide, although his mother claimed it was an accident. It occurred during a far more positive time in the man's life and remains controversial. Although this book is filled with many of the technical aspects of mathematics, it is also a story of one man's brilliance and passion. This well-written biography, complete with good-quality photos, gives insight into a man most readers know little about.—*Karen Scott, Valley Intermediate School, Pelham, AL*

School Library Journal

OCTOBER, 2008

STAEGER, Rob. *Ancient Mathematicians*. 112p. (Profiles in Mathematics Series). diags. illus. maps. photos. reprods. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2008. PLB $28.95. ISBN 978-1-59935-065-3. LC 2008007533.

Gr 6-10–This title is a solid choice for report writers. After a brief overview of the role of mathematics in ancient Greece, the book profiles Pythagoras, Euclid, Archimedes, and Hypatia. The presentation is greatly enhanced by full-color maps, reproductions, and artifacts, as well as numerous sidebars, diagrams, and time lines. Michael J. Bradley's The Birth of Mathematics: Ancient Times to 1300 (Chelsea House, 2006) covers six more mathematicians and includes Thales.—*Caroline Geck, Newark Public Schools, NJ*