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Davis, Philip J.

Ancient loons. Stories Pingree told me.

Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press (ISBN 978-1-4665-0111-9/hbk; 978-1-4665-0121-8/ebook). xii, 138 p. (2012).

As the author himself describes in the Preface, “this slim volume tells of my relations with David E. Pingree: a classicist, an Orientalist, a historian of ancient mathematics, and for many years a member of the Department of the History of Mathematics at Brown University.” This nice book is a collection of short stories reconstructed from the author’s correspondence and conversations with his friend Pingree. An award-winning writer invites the reader to explore interesting connections between ancient characters, both mythical and historical, by recreating a variety of historical events. A very enjoyable reading that does not require any special training in mathematics.

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Classification: A30

Keywords: history of mathematics; ancient mathematics; David Pingree

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