

ZMATH 2006b.00815

Schattschneider, Doris

M.C. Escher 'Visions of symmetry'.

Thames and Hudson, London (ISBN 0-500-51169-1). vp. (2004).

The book deals with one powerful obsession that preoccupied Escher: what he called "the regular division of the plane," the puzzle-like interlocking of birds, fish, lizards, and other natural forms in continuous patterns. Schattschneider asks, "How did he do it?" She answers the question by meticulously analyzing Escher's notebooks, and the *New Scientist* described the result as "a collection of detective stories whose plots are brilliantly organized patterns." Like the first edition of the book, this new volume includes many of Escher's masterworks, as well as hundreds of lesser-known examples of his work. It also features an illustrated epilogue by the author that reveals new information about Escher's inspiration and shows how his ideas of symmetry have influenced mathematicians, computer scientists, and contemporary artists. *Visions of Symmetry* is a trip into the mind of a creator who continues to captivate the world.

Classification: A30 G50