

**ZMATH 1998b.00683**

**Monastyrsky, Michael**

**Modern mathematics in the light of the fields medals.**

Peters, Wellesley, MA (ISBN 1-56881-065-2). 176 p. (1997).

A better review of the book will be to quote some portions from the forward by F. Dyson. “This little book is extraordinary in at least three ways. First, it contains in only 150 pages a synopsis of the whole of modern mathematics. Second, it is fully international in scope, giving equal emphasis to outstanding achievements of mathematicians of all countries. Third, it comes with a superb bibliography, giving references to original papers and review articles”. “The idea of summarizing the whole of mathematics in 150 pages seems at first glance to be absurd . . . Monastyrsky was brave enough to attempt it in spite of the absurdity, and he has brilliantly succeeded”. The 1991 Russian edition of the book was an expanded version of an article published in *Istor. Mat. Issled.* (Historical Mathematical Research) in 1989. The book contains a brief biography of John Charles Fields and a history of the Fields medals. (ZfM)

*Classification:* A15

*Keywords:* contemporary mathematics