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Wessel on vectors.

Swetz, Frank (ed.) et al., Learn from the masters. Proceedings of the international conference/workshop on the history of mathematics, held in Kristiansand, Norway, August of 1988. Providence, RI: Mathematical Association of America (ISBN 0-88385-703-0/pbk). Classr. Resour. Mater., 207-213 (1995).

Summary: The author reviews the work of the Norwegian Caspar Wessel who provided a graphical meaning to the concept of vectors in two dimensions and attempted to extend it to three dimensions. The author's historical comments on vectors reflect on both mathematics and physics teaching.

Classification: A30 H65 H45 F55

Keywords: history of mathematics; university teaching; genetic method; vectors; vector analysis; vector algebra; mathematicians; mathematics in the 18th century; mathematics in the 19th century; complex numbers; quaternions; Caspar Wessel