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Display: entries per page entries HTML Comp [Zbl pre05643734](#)**[Thiele, Rüdiger](#)****[\(Hirzebruch, Friedrich\)](#)****Van der Waerden in Leipzig. With a foreword by Friedrich****Hirzebruch.** (German)

[B] EAGLE 36. EAGLE-Essay. Leipzig: Edition am Gutenbergplatz Leipzig (EAGLE). 155~p. EUR~22.50 (2009). ISBN 978-3-937219-36-3/pbk

The author of this booklet was a member of the Karl Sudhoff-Institut in Leipzig and had published two other papers concerning van der Waerden in Leipzig. This means, the author is an outstanding specialist. Van der Waerden had spent the years 1931-1945 in Leipzig. When he arrived, the first volume of his textbook "Modern algebra" had appeared [Moderne Algebra. Unter Benutzung von Vorlesungen von $\{it E. Artin\}$ und $\{it E. Noether\}$. Bd. I. (Die Grundlehren der mathematischen Wissenschaften in Einzeldarstellungen mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Anwendungsgebiete Bd. 23). VIII+ 243 S. Berlin, J. Springer (1930; [JFM 56.0138.01](#))], the second followed in 1931 [[Zbl 0002.00804](#); [JFM 57.0153.03](#)]. This textbook can hardly be overestimated, several generations learned algebra after van der Waerden. However, van der Waerden was not the creator of modern algebra but its reporter; the real creators had been Emil Artin and Emmy Noether, both are mentioned energetically in van der Waerden's book. During his time in Leipzig van der Waerden had published 5 books, 57 papers and he had supervised 4 theses. Mostly, while van der Waerden stayed in Leipzig, the Third Reich was in power. The author investigated thoroughly van der Waerden's political position and named the reasons why van der Waerden stayed in Leipzig though he was offered to become professor in Utrecht two times. Even when van der Waerden lost his home, because it was destroyed by bombs, he did not leave but moved to Bischofswerda near Dresden, still lecturing in Leipzig. But as is demonstrated in the book, van der Waerden had no sympathies at all for the Third Reich. However, in the booklet also van der Waerden's career before 1931 and after 1945 are treated. In 1951 van der Waerden became professor at the university of Zürich where he retired in 1972. He also created an institute for history of mathematics, which he directed till 1979. Van der Waerden was an outstanding mathematician who had contributed to nearly all disciplines within

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mathematics. And he also was an outstanding historian; a rare combination with an outstanding mathematician. The booklet is accompanied by comprehensive notes, several appendices, biographies of all mentioned mathematicians and scientists, and indices; there are many nice photographs, some of them in colour. It is a very interesting book founded on thorough investigations which will inspire its readers.

[[Karin Reich \(Berlin\)](#)]

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