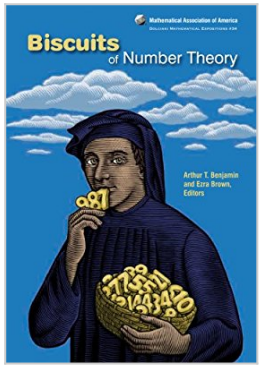

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From Mathematical Association of America

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In *Biscuits of Number Theory*, the editors have chosen articles that are exceptionally well-written and that can be appreciated by anyone who has taken (or is taking) a first course in number theory. This book could be used as a textbook supplement for a number theory course, especially one that requires students to write papers or do outside reading. The editors give examples of some of the possibilities.

The collection is divided into seven chapters: Arithmetic, Primes, Irrationality, Sums of Squares and Polygonal Numbers, Fibonacci Numbers, Number Theoretic Functions, and Elliptic Curves, Cubes and Fermat's Last Theorem. As with any anthology, you don't have to read the Biscuits in order. Dip into them anywhere: pick something from the Table of Contents that strikes your fancy, and have at it. If the end of an article leaves you wondering what happens next, then by all means dive in and do some research. You just might discover something new!

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Editorial Review

Review
A collection of accessible and even profound essays on number theory gleaned from a wide variety of writers and journals--everyone from Euler to Quine, plus many recent popular expositions. An invigorating and generally undemanding excursion into surprise. A first rate book. --Bob Lockhart, London Math Society Newsletter

Art Benjamin and Ezra Brown, editors of *Biscuits of Number Theory*, describe this book as follows: "an assortment of articles and notes on number theory, where each item is not too big, easily digested, and makes you feel all warm and fuzzy when you're through.

Benjamin teaches at Harvey Mudd College, was names "America's best math whiz" by *Reader's Digest* in May 2005. He's also a professional magician who has appeared on many TV shows and National Public Radio. Brown teaches mathematics at Virginia Tech, and according to his web page, likes to bake his students actual biscuits.

Biscuits of Number Theory consists of 40 short articles copies from journals such as *Math Horizons, Mathematics Magazine, Mathematics Teacher,* and the *American Mathematical Monthly*....

The authors represented include some of the best expositors of elementary number theory: Peter Borwein, Stan Wagon, Carl Pomerance, Ivan Niven, Edward Berger, Ross Honsberger, and Martin Gardent, just to name a few. The articles are classified into seven different parts: arithmetic, primes, irrationality and continued fractions, sums of squares and polygonal numbers, Fibonacci numbers, number-theoretic functions, and elliptic curves and Fermat's last theorem.

Many of the chapters will be accessible to high school students or even bright junior high students....Other chapters will likely be very mysterious even for beginning graduate students. Furstenberg's topological proof of the infinitude of the primes will likely be incomprehensible for many students, as will the last article, about Fermat's last theorem. But that doesn't matter; it's *good* when a book has *some* content above the level of the typical reader, because this will intrigue some readers sufficiently that they'll feel the need to learn the required material. The challenge is to have the right amount, and my feeling is that this book has a good balance of material. --Jeffrey Shallit, Sigact News

About the Author
Arthur Benjamin earned his B.S. in Applied Mathematics from Carnegie Mellon and his Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences from Johns Hopkins. Since 1989, he has taught at Harvey Mudd College, where he is Professor of Mathematics and past Chair. In 2000, he received the Haimo Award for Distinguished Teaching from the Mathematical Association of America. Since 2006 he has served as the MAA's Polya Lecturer. He has been featured in numerous magazines, television and radio programmes.

Ezra Brown grew up in New Orleans and has degrees from Rice University and Louisiana State University. Since 1969 he has been in the Mathematics Department at Virginia Tech, where he is currently Alumni Distinguished Professor. He is the author of some sixty papers, mostly in number theory and discrete mathematics. He received the Outstanding Teacher Award from the MD/DC/VA Section of the MAA, and he currently serves as that section's governor. He received the Carl Allendoerfer Award (2003) and three

George Polya Awards (2000, 2001, 2006) from the MAA for expository writing.

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