



THE ARTIST AND THE MATHEMATICIAN

The story of **Nicolas Bourbaki**, the genius mathematician who never existed...

Dr. Amir D. Aczel

new title

SALES POINTS:

- From the bestselling author of *Fermat's Last Theorem and Chance*
- A large and continuing interest in Popular Science and Maths related titles
- A powerful mathematical mystery story in both human and philosophical terms

MARKET:

Mathematics, history & philosophy

DESCRIPTION:

From the author of *Fermat's Last Theorem and Chance*

Nicolas Bourbaki, whose mathematical publications began to appear in the late 1930s was a direct product as well as a major force behind an important revolution that took place in the early decades of the twentieth century that completely changed Western culture.

Pure mathematics, the area of Bourbaki's work, seems to be an abstract field of human study with no direct connection with the real world. In reality, however, it is closely linked with the general culture that surrounds it. Major developments in mathematics have often followed important trends in popular culture; developments in mathematics have acted as harbingers of change in the surrounding human culture.

The seeds of change, the beginnings of the revolution that swept the Western world in the early decades of the twentieth century — both in mathematics and in other areas — were sown late in the previous century. This is the story both of Bourbaki and the world that created him in that time. It is the story of an elaborate intellectual joke — because Bourbaki, one of the foremost mathematicians of his day — never existed.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY:

Amir D. Aczel is the author of *Fermat's Last Theorem*, *The Mystery of the Aleph*, *God's Equation*, *The Riddle of the Compass* and *Chance*, among many other titles. His work has been translated into French, German, Japanese, Dutch, Turkish, Hebrew, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish and Finnish.

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