

Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences

Invites you to a workshop by

**Burt C. Hopkins**  
(Université de Lille)

# **The Origin of Symbolic Mathematics**

Jacob Klein's account of the origin of symbolic mathematics, which he finds in a strand of the history of mathematics wherein François Viète encounters and reinterprets Diophantus' *Arithmetica*, will be the topic of the Reading Group.

Klein's philosophical analysis of the mathematical transformation of the concept *and* being of number that he argues is evident in Viète's *Introduction to the Analytic Art* will be critically evaluated in light of his underlying thesis that, "The creation of the formal language of mathematics is identical with the foundation of modern algebra"

Text: "Die griechische Logistik und die Entstehung der Algebra" (1936).  
English translation: *Greek Mathematical Thought and the Origin of Algebra*.

Institute of Philosophy, Jilská 1, Praha 1, zasedací  
místnost Filosofického ústavu

1<sup>st</sup> meeting (with an introductory talk) Thursday,  
September 26, 15:00–17:00  
next meetings Monday October 7 and then every Monday  
until November 18, 14:00–16:00

Contact: havrda@flu.cas.cz