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Viktor Blåsjö: Jakob Steiner's Systematische Entwickelung: The Culmination of Classical

Geometry

Sammanfattning

Steiner's Systematische Entwickelung of 1832 was a monumental unification of classical geometry based on a new conception of projective geometry and a new approach to conic sections. We study this work and its historical context in some detail. We also argue that Steiner was committed to the unification and reverence of classical geometry, and that his work was a remarkable success by these standards, but that later generations imposed different standards of success, downplaying historical continuity and favouring intrinsically motivated programmatic agendas, which caused a lasting depreciation of Steiner's work.