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*Mathematical Notations as Identifiers of Epistemic Cultures.*

Mike Mahoney (1993) warned us that “The symbols and terms of modern mathematics are the bearers of its concepts and methods. Their application to historical material always involves the risk of imposing on that material a content it does not in fact possess.” Historians of mathematics have, for the most part, taken these concerns to heart and follow current scholarship in historiography. *Revolutions in Mathematics* (Gillies 1992) is a text dedicated to the integration of Kuhnian historiography and the history of mathematics. Many historians of mathematics, however, have yet to be introduced to the historiography of Karin Knorr Cetina found in *Epistemic Cultures: How the Sciences Make Knowledge* (1999) where she studies modern high energy physics and molecular biology. She advocates that the Kuhnian historiography is too narrow and proposes an alternative to the paradigm concept: epistemic cultures. Building upon a workshop talk that contrasts the two methods and evaluates the appropriateness and applicability of epistemic cultures to the history of mathematics, the author argues that there is another reason to maintain the notation and terminology of past mathematics: they are identifiers of epistemic cultures.