Ars Mathematica

Stan Raatz

sraatz@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm

Ars Mathematica

Stan Raatz

sraatz@gmail.com

> A poem should not mean / but be.
> *Ars Poetica*, Archibald MacLeish

A theorem should be clear and elemental
as a diamond or crystal,

smart,
as a necklace at the arts,

formal, as a tiara
worn by the Queen of Sciences at an opera,

terse, as when a topologist says,
trivial.

A theorem should be logical as a syllogism,
as colored light from a prism,

assembled lemma by lemma into a mathematical artifice,
timeless as concrete and bricks,

leaving open conjectures and questions,
mysteries like the Riemann Hypothesis.

A theorem should be equal to:
in mathematics, true.

For all the history of proof theory,
from Pythagoras's harmony to Cantor's infinity,

a theorem should not be, but say
Q.E.D.