

1077-K1-383

Thomas Drucker* (druckert@uww.edu), Dept. of Math. and Comp. Sci., University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, 800 West Main Street, Whitewater, WI 53190. *Thought in Mathematical Practice.*

Palle Yourgrau has recently argued that mathematics as currently practiced is a domain from which thought is absent. His claim is that philosophers who have tried to carry mathematical techniques over into metaphysics have fallen short because the questions that arise in philosophical discussions require thought and not just the application of technique. He points to a thread of criticism of mathematics that goes back to Plato. In this paper an attempt will be made to characterize stages in the doing of mathematics that require thought on the part of those performing them. While there are aspects of mathematical practice that are formulaic enough to appear not to require thinking, it is throwing babies out with bathwater to abandon what mathematics has to offer to the practice of metaphysics. (Received August 28, 2011)