
In recent philosophy of mathematics much attention has been paid to neo-logicist and neo-structuralist views. These views are usually traced back to Gottlob Frege and Richard Dedekind, respectively, although often only in very sketchy ways, as the emphasis tends to be on philosophical and mathematical aspects while historical matters are treated in a cursory way. Logicism and structuralism are also often seen as opposed to each other. As a consequence, we are presented with the basic choice between a Fregean and a Dedekindian perspective. Moreover, the Fregean side has long been favored in the analytic tradition. In the present essay I reconsider both this opposition and Frege’s and Dedekind’s respective legacies. I proceed by intertwining history and philosophy, with the goal of enriching both. The essay can thus be seen as an example of doing philosophy of mathematics historically.