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Thomas Drucker* (druckert@uww.edu), Dept. of Mathematical and Computer Sciences,
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Philosophy.*

Mathematicians complain about the extent to which questions in the philosophy of their subject remain unaltered after thousands of years, while the discipline of mathematics itself seems to make indubitable progress. This talk looks at some of the issues in the philosophy of mathematics, from Aristotle to the twentieth century, that have led to advances within mathematics itself. The philosophical questions do not have to be resolved in order for work on them to contribute to mathematical advancement. While there may be no general agreement among the mathematical community about answers to certain philosophical questions involving the foundations of mathematics, there is no doubt that reflecting on foundations has led to interesting and important mathematics. (Received September 09, 2012)