

## Preface

This book had its conception in 1974, when my small cottage industry of designing geometric puzzles and handcrafting them in wood was then in its fourth year. It began as a newsletter of limited circulation having to do with mechanical puzzles in general, especially those that could be made in the classroom or workshop. It was intended for persons who enjoy designing puzzles, making them, collecting them, or just solving them. In 1978, the various issues were assembled into a booklet. Later more chapters were added, and it became a book of sorts called *Puzzle Craft*, bound and published right in my workshop. A revised and improved edition came out in 1985. Then, in 1990, an entirely new book based on the same material was published by Oxford University Press as *The Puzzling World of Polyhedral Dissections*—part of their Recreations in Mathematics series. With this book we continue along our convoluted path of discovery in this fascinating land of puzzeldom. Much new material has been added, representing recent puzzle creations from 1990 up to the present, including some from the far corners of the world. All of the previous material has been thoroughly edited for possible improvements, and some of the fat has been trimmed off. Perhaps most important of all, the illustrations have been greatly enhanced, thanks to the expert work of John Rausch, the book's graphics editor. Indeed, without his enthusiasm and untiring efforts, probably none of this would have happened. For publishing this and all those other fine books on mathematical recreations, thanks to Klaus Peters of A K Peters, a friend in need if ever there was one. And for their patience in fitting all the parts together, thanks to the publisher's editorial and technical staff of Charlotte Henderson, Erica Schultz, and Larissa Zaretsky. Jerry Slocum has provided expert help on the history of puzzles. Assisting in the workshop and office in bygone

days were my late wife Jane and the three little elves—Abbie, Tammi, and Margie. Kathy Jones proofread an early version of the manuscript and offered helpful tips. And finally, heartfelt thanks to Mary Dow for not only tolerating the workshop dust and noise but also steadfastly offering encouragement and support whenever they were needed.

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