

### **Babylonian Mathematics Copymaster 1: Negative number quotes**

Negative numbers are 'absurd' (Chuquet, 15th Century)

Negative numbers are 'absurd' (Stifel, 16th Century)

Negative numbers are 'impossible', and 'fictitious' (Caradan, 16th Century)

Negative numbers should be 'discarded entirely' (Vieta, 16th/17th Century)

Negative numbers are 'false' (Descartes, 17th Century)

Negative numbers are 'utter nonsense' (Pascal, 17th Century)

Negative numbers are 'larger than infinity' and 'less than zero' (Wallis, 17th Century)

Negative numbers are 'greater than infinity' (Euler, 18th Century)

Negative numbers should be 'rejected' (Maseres, 18th/19th Century)

Their use will lead to 'erroneous conclusions' (Carnot, 18th/19th Century)

Negative numbers are evidence of 'inconsistency' or 'absurdity' (De Morgan, 19th Century).