

Contents

List of Figures	vii
List of Tables	ix
Preface	x
Acknowledgments	xii
1 Puzzles in Mind and History	1
Riddles, puzzles, and games	2
Historical sketch	11
Main puzzle types	21
Solving puzzles	22
Puzzle archetypes	26
Puzzles and human intelligence	31
2 Riddles	33
Riddles as oral tradition	35
Solving riddles	41
Riddles and metaphor	44
Riddles and the origins of culture	48
3 Word Games	53
Anagrams and acrostics	54
Cryptograms	60
Word squares, word searches, crosswords, and doublets	71
The ludic nature of language	80
4 Visual Puzzles	83
Optical illusions	84
Vanishing tricks	92
Rebuses	97
Geometric puzzles	99
The tangram, the jigsaw, and the golden ratio	103
Mazes	107
Visual imaging	110

5	Puzzles in Mathematics	115
	The Ahmes papyrus	117
	The magic square	119
	Alcuin's <i>propositiones</i>	127
	Fibonacci's <i>Liber Abaci</i>	130
	Recreational mathematics	133
	Mathematical method	141
	Puzzle memes	144
6	Puzzles and Logic	151
	The nature of logic	153
	The Monty Hall problem	160
	Paradoxes and cognition	162
	Logic deconstructed	166
	Sudoku	171
	Logic and imagination	173
7	Puzzles and Human Intelligence	175
	<i>Homo ludens</i>	176
	Games of chance	182
	Human intelligence	184
	Mind and culture	189
	Concluding remarks	194
	References	199
	Index	213