Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm

This volume consists of a bilingual edition of 47 French, German, Latin writings by Leibniz dealing with actuarial theory and financial mathematics. All writings are, if necessary, translated into German. Many of them are published for the first time. There are four groups. The first group (1678–1700) consists of five memorials on the foundation of public insurances, especially against damages caused by fire or water.

The second group (about 1683) consists of 21 writings, explaining the meaning and use of the so-called “interusurium” (discount). The third group (1680–1683) consists of 17 posthumous sketches dealing with rents, annuities, pensions, life insurances, life expectancy. The four writings of the last group belong to the context of discount and calculations of pensions.

The appendix comprehends a glossary, indices of names and writings, subject, depositories of the manuscripts, facsimiles. The five commentaries by E. Knobloch, I. Schneider, E. Neuburger, W. Karten, and K. Luig are dedicated to a survey of the writings, to their historical background and scientific context, to their interpretation in the light of actuarial theory, managerial economics, and history of law.

Reviewer: Eberhard Knobloch (Berlin)

MSC:
01A75 Collected or selected works; reprints or translations of classics
91-03 History of game theory, economics, and finance
62-03 History of statistics