

K. 22. 12. 01

Ann Arbor, Mich., May 2, 1901.

my dear Professor Peano:

Referring to page 54 of your Formu-
laire, Tom III, where you speak of the
sign of division:

I have before me Oughtred's
Key of the Mathematices, London, 1647.

which is an English edition of his Cl-
avis Mathematica of 1631, and hence
the symbols are probably the same
as in that. It continually "uses" the
notation " $\frac{A}{D}$ $\frac{BC}{1}$ ($\frac{BCD}{A}$), " $\frac{A}{B}$ $\frac{BC}{1}$ ($\frac{BqC}{A}$)"

for problems in division.

Again in Rahn's Teutsche alge-
bra oder begehrte Rechenkunst

Zürich 1659 p. 8 the author says:

"Das Hauptzeichen des Dividierens
ist $\frac{1}{\cdot}$ heisset Dividiert durch"

Why not assign the symbol $\frac{1}{2}$ to Palm
1659 ?

Yours very truly,

W. W. Raman.