Complex Numbers: A History

References

- *Visual Complex Analysis* by Tristan Needham, 1999. ISBN: 978-0198534464.

- *Mathematics and Its History* by John Stillwell, 2010. ISBN: 978-1441960528.

- *Ecrire les Imaginaires* by Patrick Popescu-Pampu, in Images des Mathématiques. January 12, 2015. http://images.math.cnrs.fr/Ecrire-les-imaginaires.html?lang=fr
  Discusses excerpts from:
  - Leonhard Euler's 1777 paper in which he introduces the notation i
  - René Descartes' *Géométrie* in 1637 in which he coins the term "imaginary"
  - Leonhard Euler's *Elements of Algebra* displaying his algebraic **error** in writing $\sqrt{-2}\ \sqrt{-3} = \sqrt{6}$ (when it should be $-\sqrt{6}$)
  - Carl Friedrich Gauss' *Theoria Residuorum Biquadraticorum. Commentatio Secunda* of 1832 in which he uses the term "complex number" for a number of the form *a* + *bi* where *i* denotes the imaginary number $\sqrt{-1}$ and where *a* and *b* are real numbers