



AMS Presidents: A Timeline

◀ Previous [AMS Presidents: A Timeline home page](#) Next ▶



7. Thomas Scott Fiske (1865-1944)

President, 1903-1904

Ph.D. Columbia University, New York, New York, 1888

Fiske founded the American Mathematical Society in 1888 to foster comradeship and communication among mathematicians. He had visited England where he witnessed a vibrant mathematical community, and upon his return home he called for the establishment of such a society in the United States: "It is proposed by some recent students of the graduate school of Columbia College to establish a mathematical society for the purpose of preserving, supplementing, and utilizing the results of their mathematical studies." It was Fiske's strong support that saw the Colloquium lecture series begin in 1896--and continue to this day.

For more information:

- [A Semicentennial History of the American Mathematical Society, 1888--1938](#), by Raymond Clare Archibald (AMS, 1938), which contains CV, honors, bibliography, biographical notes and sources.
- [The MacTutor History of Mathematics Archive](#)
- [Mathematics Genealogy Project](#)
- [Columbia University Archival Collections](#)
- *A Century of Mathematics in America, Part I*, Edited by Peter Duren (American Mathematical Society, 1988), "Thomas S. Fiske and Charles S. Peirce," by C. Eisele, p.41

◀ Previous [AMS Presidents: A Timeline home page](#) Next ▶

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