

About the cover

Oswald Veblen and colleagues

This month's cover accompanies the article by Steve Batterson about the American mathematician Oswald Veblen, who had a large hand in establishing the School of Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study in the 1930s. Einstein (second from left) and Veblen (fourth from left) were the first members of that school. The others in the group photograph, which was taken sometime in the 1940s, are the topologist J. W. Alexander (at left, looking away from the camera, for reasons known only to himself); Frank Aydelotte (third from left), the second director of the Institute; and Marston Morse. The location is what was then Einstein's office in Fuld Hall, subsequently occupied by Arne Beurling and Robert Langlands.

In 1939 all of the men in the photograph had played an important role in bringing about the resignation of the first director, Abraham Flexner, amidst faculty frustration with Flexner's management. Some of the issues involved were important, such as the Institute's relations with Princeton University—among other things, the anti-Semitic attitude of some of the university's faculty (as told by Alexander in a letter to Veblen dated September 1934). The story is recounted in detail in Chapter 9 of Batterson's book *Pursuit of Genius*.

The photographs are from the archive of the Institute. We wish to thank Marcia Tucker, librarian of the Schools of Historical Studies and Social Science, for her generous help.

—Bill Casselman, *Graphics Editor*
(notices-covers@ams.org)

