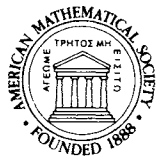
A Century of Mathematics in America

Part III



HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS

Volume 3

A Century of Mathematics in America

Part III

Edited by Peter Duren
with the assistance of Richard A. Askey
Harold M. Edwards
Uta C. Merzbach

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Preface

A Century of Mathematics in America was originally envisaged as a single-volume collection of newly written and reprinted historical articles issued to mark the Centennial of the American Mathematical Society. The mathematical community greeted the project with such enthusiasm, however, and with so many good ideas, that the collection quickly expanded to fill two and then three volumes. This is the third and final volume.

Part II featured historical articles on departments of mathematics at leading American universities. Part III now continues with histories or partial histories of Johns Hopkins, Clark, Columbia, MIT, Michigan, Texas, and the Institute for Advanced Study. As before, the selection of institutions was largely governed by the willingness of qualified people to undertake the task of producing the articles.

Other contributions include histories of American mathematical activity during the nineteenth century, some surveys of the work of individual mathematicians, further accounts of mathematicians' participation in the war effort, and a collection of articles on probability and statistics. We are greatly indebted to all of the writers for giving us these marvelous views of America's mathematical past.

As the project comes to a close, the editors feel moved to say that they have found it gratifying and highly educational. After reading so many interesting and informative articles, in which characters and themes continually reemerge in various guises, they have gained a more profound understanding of American mathematical history. Inevitably there are serious omissions in the collection, especially in the portrayal of individual mathematicians and their work. Nevertheless, the editors believe that the three-part collection is a valuable addition to the historical record.

To all who have given assistance, offered suggestions, or criticized articles in the making, the editors want to express their gratitude. In particular, they want to acknowledge the continued participation of Mary Lane and Donna Harmon in the editorial work, and the expert technical assistance of the AMS editorial staff.

Peter Duren
Richard Askey
Harold Edwards
Uta Merzbach