

---

# Contents

Preface	ix
Chapter 1. The Childhood of John Charles Fields	1
Hamilton	1
Family	3
Public Education in Hamilton	11
Mathematics	15
The Broader Culture of Science in Hamilton	17
Chapter 2. Toronto and Baltimore	19
The University of Toronto	19
Johns Hopkins University and Beyond	23
Chapter 3. Post-Doctoral Years in Europe, 1892–1900	31
Paris	31
Fields’ Mathematics Notebooks from the University of Berlin	32
“The German University and German University Mathematics”	35
Chapter 4. Return to Canada	43
Interlude in Chicago	44
Toronto	46
The <i>SS Orvieto</i> and Australia, 1914	50
August 1914: War	51
Wartime Life at The University of Toronto	56
Chapter 5. Fields and Research	61
1906: <i>Theory of the Algebraic Functions of a Complex Variable</i>	61

---

The Royal Canadian Institute	67
Science and Industry	71
Other Canadian Research Models	75
Host of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1921	77
Chapter 6. Mathematics before 1914: The Golden Years	83
Paris, Göttingen, Berlin	86
Journals and Prizes	90
Mittag-Leffler and Djursholm	91
The Abel Centenary, Norway, 1902	92
ICMs: Zürich, Paris, Heidelberg, Rome	96
ICM, Cambridge, England, 1912	99
Chapter 7. Science Responds to War	103
War Propaganda and Intellectuals	105
Moderate Views	111
War Deepens	114
The Scientific Consequences of the Peace	115
The International Research Council	119
Dissent	121
The Strasbourg Congress, 1920	125
Chapter 8. The Politics of Avoidance	129
Trouble in the AMS: An Opportunity for Fields	130
Money and Other Practical Matters	137
Drumming up Support in Europe	141
Chapter 9. The International Mathematical Congress, Toronto 1924	147
The Congress Opens	147
A Motion on the Table	152
The Western Train Trip	153
<i>Proceedings</i>	156
Chapter 10. “Sub-turbulent Politics”: Pincherle and Bologna	163
Salvatore Pincherle Negotiates	166
The Bologna Congress, 1928	170
A Noisy IMU Caucus	172
The German Position and Fields’ Quiet Diplomacy	174

---

Chapter 11. The Fields Medal	179
Fields Reconnoitres the Ground	179
Endorsement by Mathematical Societies	181
Fields Explores Designs for the Medal	184
J.L. Synge Settles Matters	186
R. Tait McKenzie, Sculptor	188
The Medal Is Awarded	191
Chapter 12. Late Years	197
Appendix i. Publications of J.C. Fields	205
Scientific Works	205
Non-Scientific Publications	207
Appendix ii. Fields Medallists, 1936–2010	209
Appendix iii. Fields' Colleagues and Friends	229
Bibliography	235
Unpublished Sources	235
Published Sources	236
List of Photographs	243
Acknowledgements	247
Index	249