

# Foreword

There are two groups of mathematicians, namely those who are keenly interested in their academic genealogy, thus tracing their academic lineage, their forefather(s), their ancestry; and those to whom such issues do not matter. The first group is surely connected with those mathematicians who have a firm interest in the history of mathematics.

As the author of “History of German Universities and Science” (Hakmunsa, 2000) and “Academic Genealogy of Physicists” (Seoul National University Press, 2005), Professor Chang already has amassed considerable experience for his latest rich and rewarding genealogical project, namely the genealogy of mathematicians.

He skillfully develops his own approach to an incredibly broad subject, covering a considerable number of the eminent mathematicians (from 18 countries) who played critical roles in the advancement of mathematics and helped shape our discipline as it exists today. The book contains not only the genealogies of these mathematicians but also short, well-balanced accounts of their lives and work, often in historical context.

This unique and complex work provides a wealth of information for mathematicians of every age. In my own experience students generally greatly appreciate hearing some highlights about the inventors of the new mathematical concepts they learn in class; learning the historical background of such concepts helps in understanding them.

*Paul L. Butzer, Professor Emeritus  
Rheinisch Westfälische Technische Hochschule, Aachen, Germany*

Looking at the history of sciences, especially at that of mathematics, two circumstances become evident. First, science develops in centers, in schools based on long traditions and often formed around great scholars. These are the places where people mainly know which problems are interesting to be studied, --- or they even create them, --- and they are also aware of the best techniques: scientific, psychological and sociological ways to approach them. Second, even in old times, being restricted to the old ways of communication (or in modern times when communication was restricted by politics) the best centers and most scholars got to know very well and pretty fast what was happening in other centers. One can or cannot agree with these thoughts but it is for sure that it is an exciting adventure to study the genealogy

of mathematicians during which one encounters great surprises and interesting connections. For certain, the reader will enjoy this fascinating book by Professor Chang.

*Domokos Szász, Professor of Mathematics  
Budapest University of Technology*

While being an electrical engineer, Professor Chang has clearly shown deep interest and knowledge in mathematics. This book will not only serve as a nice reference book on the biographies of all these great mathematicians, but also will inspire many young minds. I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for his love and passion in mathematics and for doing such a great job in writing this book.

*Dohan Kim, President, Korean Mathematical Society*

Professor Chang's book is very unique of this kind; it contains tremendous amount of information on the genealogy of mathematicians and still the description of each mathematician remains concise enough to allow the reader a good access who may have given up reading a tedious biography. All levels of readers will benefit from reading it in their own ways concerning to their and needs. I myself have learned much on mathematics even in some of the closest areas to mine.

*Yuichiro Taguchi  
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