

H. S. WALL

1902-1971

Hubert Stanley Wall died September 12, 1971 at Austin, Texas, after a long illness.

He was born December 2, 1902 in Rockwell City, Iowa, where he attended school and graduated from high school in 1920.

In 1920 he entered Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, and in 1924 received both the B.A. and M.A. degrees. During this period the influence of one of his teachers, Professor Elmer Moots, was instrumental in turning Wall's interest to mathematics. In 1970 he was awarded an honorary doctorate.

In 1924 he entered the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where he studied under Professor E. B. Van Vleck, and received the Ph.D. degree in 1927.

Wall joined the faculty of Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, in 1927 and was in residence there until 1944, except for the year 1937-38 which was spent at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

After a two year stay at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Wall moved to the University of Texas at Austin and served on the faculty there until his retirement in 1970.

During the years 1939-1944 Wall had collaborated with Professor Ernst Hellinger in a graduate analysis seminar in which all proofs were provided by the students. He had always been concerned with the stimulation of mathematical creativity in his students, and when he came to Texas in 1946 it was natural for him to adapt to his own teaching some of the methods of Professor R. L. Moore. His book, *Creative Mathematics*, outlines his philosophy and illustrates some of the techniques of his teaching. The book, however, does not tell the whole story. Wall's relationship with his students was unique. His confidence in the creative ability of each student and his pride in each individual achievement seemed to generate a self-sustaining chain reaction of accomplishment in each class.

Although Wall's publications were predominantly continued fraction related, his interests ranged wide through analysis and into areas of group theory and number theory. His book, *Analytic Theory of Continued Fraction*, continues to be a standard reference for the subject.