

**ROBERT ARNOLD SMITH**  
**23.1.1937–30.3.1983**

ERNST KANI

Robert Arnold Smith was born on 23 January 1937 in Santa Monica (near Los Angeles) where he spent most of his childhood years. After the death of Bob's father, the family moved to Venice (also near Los Angeles) and Bob attended the local high school there. Having already spent a year in Junior College, he began his university studies in 1957 at Sacramento State University, from which he graduated in 1960 with a B. A. in Physics and in 1961 with an M. A. in Applied Mathematics. His research in Number Theory, which was to become his major interest in life, began formally at the University of Colorado at Boulder. There he joined a school of number theorists which included S. Chowla, who subsequently became his life-long friend and mentor. When Chowla accepted a professorship at Pennsylvania State University, Bob followed him there in 1963, having just married Karin Roos, whom he had met during his undergraduate years in Sacramento.

His stay at Penn State was a brief one: already in the next year he accepted a position as Lecturer at the University of Toronto, where he was to remain for the rest of his life. After receiving his Ph. D. degree from the University of Colorado in 1965 for his thesis entitled "Some contributions to Analytic Number Theory", he was offered the position of Assistant Professor which was followed up by a promotion to Associate Professor in 1972 and culminated in his recent promotion to Full Professor.

In Toronto Bob met Hans Heilbronn, whom he greatly admired and who over the years exerted a considerable amount of influence on Bob's research, both directly by suggesting problems to him and also indirectly through his lectures. Bob's admiration for Heilbronn led him to undertake the project of editing Heilbronn's collected papers for publication, a project that was cut short at the time of Bob's death but was taken up again later and is now nearing completion. In Toronto Bob also collaborated a great deal (almost daily) with his colleague and friend, John H. H. Chalk, which resulted in two joint papers.

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