

Mechanics by opening with the lines

“Gin a body meet a body
Flyin’ through the air”

Maxwell played the tartan savage by claiming that

“Ilka problem has its method
By analytics high;
For me, I ken na ane o’them
But what the waur am I?”

Perhaps the greatest artifice in the book is the assumption (that we have so far taken at face value) that it is addressed to an undergraduate desirous of learning Fourier Analysis. That may have been the intent, but the result is an elegant and informative pastiche which should give pleasure to a very wide audience including even card-carrying harmonic analysts. Readers will enjoy the author’s quiet sense of fun but should be aware that his didactic purpose is deadly serious. Recalling his reaction to the great blast of heat from infinity; it may well be that we shall never know the name of the rose, but I venture to suggest that the respectable uncle is called Dr. Körner.

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BULLETIN (New Series) OF THE
AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
Volume 21, Number 2, October 1989
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0273-0979/89 \$1.00 + \$.25 per page

*Representations of *-algebras, locally compact groups, and Banach *-algebraic bundles*, by J. M. G. Fell and R. S. Doran. Academic Press, San Diego, 1988. vol. 1, *Basic representation theory of groups and algebras*, xviii + 746 pp., \$99.00. ISBN 0-12-252721-6. vol. 2, *Banach *-algebraic bundles, induced representations, and the generalized Mackey analysis*, viii + 740 pp., \$99.00. ISBN 0-12-252722-4

The theory of group representations has a long history in Mathematics and in Mathematical physics. It has its roots in two lines of mathematical thought. The first concerns the theory of Fourier series and the desire to extend these results, first to noncompact locally compact abelian groups, then to nonabelian compact groups, and finally to general locally compact groups. The second line centers around invariant theory, the Klein Erlanger program, and vector and tensor analysis. A historical account of the latter line may be found in [13]. In addition, a long motivational discussion concerning all these areas may be found in the first volume of the work being reviewed.

Let G be a locally compact group whose representation theory one wishes to study. Let λ be a Haar measure on G . The Banach space $L^1(G)$