

HAROLD E. WOLFE

Harold Eichholz Wolfe was a devoted servant to Indiana University. He received his A.B. with High Distinction in 1913 and an A.M. in 1914. After two years as an instructor at the University of South Dakota, he returned to Indiana University to obtain his PhD in 1918. He then entered officer's training at Camp Zachary Taylor, where he was also an instructor. In December of that year, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Artillery, O.R.C.

In 1919, Harold began his long career as a teacher of mathematics at Indiana University. By 1929, he had risen to the rank of Associate Professor. He was Acting Chairman of the Mathematics Department during the 1953-54 academic year. In 1955, during a period of great turmoil, he became Chairman of the department and managed to hold its remnants together until its reorganization in 1957. He was then promoted to Professor. In 1961, he retired as Professor Emeritus of Mathematics. For most of the subsequent period, until his death on May 8, 1986, he appeared regularly in Swain Hall to work in his office.

Harold's field of research was geometry and he published a widely used textbook on non-Euclidean geometry. But his true mission and great love was the teaching of mathematics, for which he had unusual talent. In recognition of this, he was awarded the Frederic Bachman Lieber Memorial Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1958. His influence extended well



beyond the student body in Bloomington, for he made weekly trips to Indianapolis over a period of 35 years in order to conduct classes on that campus. He reached still others by teaching mathematics by correspondence for Indiana University. He was a charter member of the Mathematical Association of America, and he also belonged to the American Mathematical Society, the American Association of University Professors, the Indiana Academy of Science, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi.

Born: North Manchester, Indiana June 6, 1891
Died: Bloomington, Indiana May 8, 1986
Years at IU: 1919-1962