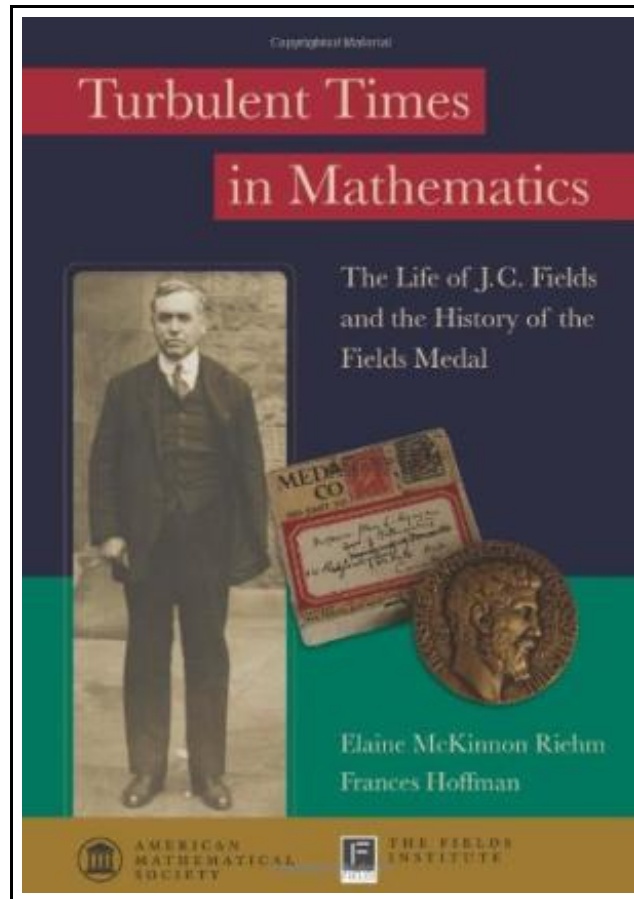


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American Mathematical Society. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Turbulent Times in Mathematics: The Life of J.C. Fields and the History of the Fields Medal, Elaine McKinnon Riehm, Frances Hoffman, Despite the renown of the Fields Medals, J. C. Fields has been until now a rather obscure figure, and recovering details about his professional activities and personal life was not at all a simple task. This work is a triumph of persistence with far-flung archival and documentary sources, and provides a rich non-mathematical portrait of the man in all aspects of his life and career. Highly readable and replete with period detail, the book sheds useful light on the mathematical and scientific world of Fields' time, and is sure to remain the definitive biographical study. --Tom Archibald, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada Drawing on a wide array of archival sources, Riehm and Hoffman provide a vivid account of Fields' life and his part in the founding of the highest award in mathematics. Filled with intriguing detail--from a childhood on the shores of Lake Ontario, through the mathematics seminars of late 19th century Berlin, to the post-WW1 years of the fragmented international mathematical community--it is a richly textured story engagingly and sympathetically told. Read this book and you will understand why Fields never wanted the medal to bear his name and yet why, quite rightly, it does. --June Barrow-Green, Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom One of the little-known effects of World War I was the collapse of international scientific cooperation. In mathematics, the discord continued after the war's end and after the Treaty of Versailles had been signed in 1919. Many distinguished scientists were involved in the war and its aftermath, and from their letters and papers, now almost a hundred years old, we learn of their anguished wartime...



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