Books and Book Series

The Society has increasingly become a publisher of books. During the first fifty years, the Colloquium Publications were the only book series. The *Proceedings of the International Mathematical Congress of 1893* had been published by the New York Mathematical Society but there had been no other publication of books. The role of conferences in supporting several series of books has already been described. The place of translation in the scheme of publication by the Society has a chapter of its own. However, the first venture in book publication by the Society beyond the Colloquium Publications was the series Mathematical Surveys.

Mathematical Surveys

On 16 November 1940 there was a conference between the publisher Williams and Wilkins, represented by Messrs. Robert S. Gill and Passano, and the Society, represented by R.G.D. Richardson, T. C. Fry, and J. L. Walsh. The subject was the possibility that Williams and Wilkins publish surveys of fields of research in mathematics of current interest for the Society with editorial supervision by the Society but at no cost to the Society and as a nonprofit enterprise for the publisher, just as that publisher already did in other fields for other organizations. A model was the Ergebnisse series of Julius Springer. When the report of the conference was presented to the Council of 31 December 1940, it was voted to pursue the matter further and a committee consisting of E. W. Chittenden, chairman, T. H. Hildebrandt, H. P. Robertson, J. D. Tamarkin, and J. L. Walsh was appointed to do so. Walsh had already been mentioned at the conference as the possible editor.

The committee surveyed a sample of 180 members thought knowledgeable about such matters and the response was substantially favorable. Thus the Council of 2 May 1941 followed the recommendation of the committee that a second committee be appointed to confer with the company over the terms of an agreement. It was explicit that service on the negotiating committee not be a bar to subsequent service on the editorial committee.

The committee to confer consisted of Walsh, chairman, Chittenden, and E. J. McShane. At the Council of 2 September 1941, the new secretary, J. R. Kline, was added to the Committee. The agreement that was reached called for two books without further commitment on either side. However it was agreed subsequently that the use of the title Mathematical Surveys would rest with the Society.

The Company wished to use the phrase "Published for the American Mathematical Society by the Williams and Wilkins Company" but the Council preferred such a phrase as "Published by the Williams and Wilkins Company under the editorial supervision of the American Mathematical Society."

The temporary Editorial Board for Mathematical Surveys consisted of Walsh, chairman, A. A. Albert, and F. D. Murnaghan. However McShane replaced Walsh as chairman early in 1942, the latter having been called to active duty with the Navy. McShane in turn resigned before the end of 1942, when he took employment at the Ballistic Research Laboratories at Aberdeen Proving Ground. However before leaving he was able to announce that the first two volumes had been selected, namely *The Problem of Moments* by J. A. Shohat and J. D. Tamarkin and *The Theory of Rings* by N. Jacobson.

By October 1942, T. H. Hildebrandt had been appointed to the editorial committee to replace McShane and Murnaghan had been appointed chairman.

The manuscript of Jacobson came to about 128 pages and was priced at $3.50 with prepublication price of $2.75. The Council instructed the chairman to convey to the publisher the opinion that the price was rather high.

On 27 December 1942 the Council voted to publish the series Mathematical Surveys on its own responsibility. The list price of the Jacobson monograph was set at about $2.00 and of the Shohat–Tamarkin volume at about $2.50. In 1943 the price of each was set at $2.25.

Funds to initiate the new series came from the income of special funds, particularly the E. H. Moore Fund. The Council had voted to call the series the E. H. Moore Series of Mathematical Surveys. The Trustees at their meeting of 28 December 1942 cited unspecified complications and the Council of 27 February 1943 did settle on the name Mathematical Surveys.

When it was reported to the Council at the meeting of 12 September 1943 that the two books had been published, the Council voted to continue the series and to appoint a temporary editorial committee to serve until the by-laws could be amended to give the members of a standing committee the same Council representation as other editorial committees. The temporary committee in fact was Murnaghan, Albert, and Hildebrandt and the editorial committee did become a committee with Council representation effective 1 January 1945.

Publication in the series Mathematical Surveys continued at a leisurely pace. By 1984 the name of the Editorial Committee had been expanded to Mathematical Surveys and Monographs in response to a liberalization of the perception of the kinds of books to be published. By 1987 twenty-four volumes had appeared.

The members of the Editorial Committee of Mathematical Surveys have been the following:

A. A. Albert	1945
J. D. Tamarkin	1945
Nelson Dunford	1945–1949
A. W. Tucker	1946–1951
J. L. Walsh	1946–1950
W. T. Martin	1950–1952
Leo Zippin	1951–1956
R. J. Walker	1952–1957
M. Shiffman	1953–1955
I. J. Schoenberg	1956–1961
S. Ulam	1957–1962
I. Kaplansky	1958–1960
E. Hewitt	1961–1966
P. E. Conner	1962–1967
M. Suzuki	1963–1971
B. Yood	1967–1972
E. H. Brown, Jr.	1968–1976
R. G. Bartle	1972–1977
P. R. Halmos	1973–1975
M. A. Rosenlicht	1976–1978
R. J. Milgram	1977–1982
J. C. Scanlon	1978–1983
D. W. Anderson	1979–1984
R. O. Wells, Jr.	1983–
Gian-Carlo Rota	1984–1986
M. Susan Montgomery	1985–
Irwin Kra	1986–
Victor W. Guillemin	1987–

Contemporary Mathematics

In 1979 the charge to the Editorial Committee of the Surveys was enlarged. The Council of 23 January 1979 referred to the Committee on the Publication Program (a committee of the Trustees) a proposal from Raymond Ayoub that the *Transactions* promote special issues honoring outstanding mathematicians or obituary issues with analyses of the contributions of the

deceased. The thought was that these would have a market for individual sales.

Supported by this referral, the Committee on the Publication Program recommended that the Society institute a series of books (dubbed informally the "Fast and Cheap Series") of proceedings of conferences and of lecture notes. The formal title proposed was Contemporary Mathematics. The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of 11–13 May 1979 received this recommendation with favor and on their subsequent recommendation the Council of 22 August 1979 adopted this proposal. Editorial control was lodged with the Editorial Committee of Mathematical Surveys.

In the interval 1980–1987 there were sixty-seven volumes in the series Contemporary Mathematics. More than half have been reports of conferences or of special sessions. The series has received reports of many Summer Research Conferences. Editorial questions have been handled by a subcommittee of associate editors, with a member of the parent committee as managing editor.

The Council of 5 January 1988, on request of Irwin Kra, then managing editor, made the Editorial Committee of Contemporary Mathematics an independent editorial committee without Council representation.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The Society has accommodated others at the same time as it served its own constituency. An example is the Selected Tables in Mathematical Statistics, edited by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics but published by the Society, in which ten sets of tables were published since 1970. Another is the CBMS Regional Conference Series. These are expository softcover books sponsored by the Conference Board and supported by the National Science Foundation. Sixty-eight of these have appeared since 1970.

The Society has published the Conference Proceedings of the Canadian Mathematical Society, with eight volumes since 1982.

The AMS is the distributor in the United States, Canada, and Mexico of *Astérisque*, a journal of papers, lecture notes, and conference proceedings of the Société Mathématique de France that is sold also as separata.

The publication of the Society with the largest sale until recently is the *Russian-English Dictionary*, detailed in the chapter on translations.

Another very popular publication of the Society is *Mathematics into Type* by Ellen Swanson, long-time director of Editorial Services in the Society office. It began as an in-house manual for proofreaders, copy editors, and technical editors. It was rewritten in 1970 and published in 1971 for general consumption "by publishers and authors as a guide in preparing mathematics copy for the printer." With the change from Monotype as the standard

for typesetting to phototypesetting, there were enough changes in practice to justify a revised edition in 1979.

There is a presage of the system of computer composition called TEX in the revised edition of *Mathematics into Type* but the degree to which it was embraced by the Society does not yet appear. TEX makes author prepared camera copy realistic and reduces or eliminates the problems of communication between author and printer addressed in *Mathematics into Type*.

TEX was devised by Donald E. Knuth. His exposition with the title *The TEXbook* was jointly published by Addison-Wesley and the Society in 1984. A user's guide for TEX in the version called AMS-TEX and sponsored by the Society was written by M. D. Spivak and published by the Society in 1986 under the title *The Joy of TEX*. It has displaced the *Russian-English Dictionary* as the best seller.