



Philip J. Davis

Professor Emeritus
Division of Applied
Mathematics
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island
02912
Phone 401.863.3719
Fax 401.863.1355

Philip_Davis@Brown.edu

Philip J. Davis was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, USA in 1923. He received both his undergraduate degrees from Harvard University in the field of pure mathematics. He was Chief for Numerical Analysis National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C. for five years. In 1963, Professor Davis joined the faculty in the Division of Applied Mathematics at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, where he is now Professor Emeritus.

Professor Davis has been and remains a prolific writer. As part of his work at the National Bureau of Statistics took a prominent role in the writing and planning of the **Handbook of Mathematical Functions**, a.k.a., **Abramowitz and Stegun**. This reference work sold hundreds of thousands of copies. His work in numerical analysis and approximation theory includes many research papers and the technical books such as **Interpolation and Approximation** (1963), **Numerical Integration** (with Philip Rabinowitz, 1967), **The Schwarz Function and Circulant Matrices** (1979).

His books, **The Mathematical Experience** and **Descartes' Dream**, written jointly with Reuben Hersh of the University of New Mexico, explore certain questions in the philosophy of mathematics, and the role of mathematics in society. They have been translated into practically all major European and Oriental languages. His important writings in the philosophy of mathematics have been widely anthologized. The **Mathematical Experience** received the American Book Award for 1983. **Mathematics and Common Sense: A Case of Creative Tension** appeared in 2006.

Other works include his book, **No Way: The Nature of the Impossible** with David Park, appeared in 1987. In a lighter vein, Davis has written: **The Thread: a Mathematical Yarn** (1983), **Thomas Gray: Philosopher Cat** (1988). **Thomas Gray in Copenhagen**, a sequel to the first Thomas Gray book, appeared in 1995. These have also appeared in numerous foreign language editions. A unique blend of biography and autobiography

appeared in his work entitled, **Mathematical Encounters of the Second Kind** (1996), and his book entitled **The Education of a Mathematician** (2000) embraces both biography and educational philosophy. Professor Davis has been a columnist for the SIAM NEWS (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) for the past fifteen years.

Professor Davis is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and is on the Editorial Board of the Royal Society and received a Guggenheim Award in 1956. Dr. Davis is also a member of the advisory Board for Studies in the History of Mathematics (Springer-Verlag). He has received the Award in Mathematics of the Washington Academy of Sciences, and the Chauvent Prize of the Mathematical Association in 1963. Professor Davis also received the Lester R. Ford Award in 1982, the George Polya Award Award in 1987. He received the Hedrick Award in 1990, and in 1997, he won the Communications Award of the Joint Policy Board for the Mathematical Sciences. In 1997 he was a Doctoral Lecturer for Roskilde University in Denmark and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science, *Honoris Causa*.

He has delivered many "name" lectures. Among them:

- May 2006, Invited Lecturer, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften.
- May, 2004. Invited Lecturer, Hungarian Society for the History of Mathematics.
- May, 2002. Invited Lecturer, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften.
- August, 2002. Invited Lecturer, International Conference on War and Mathematics, Karlskrona, Sweden.
- August, 1998. Urania Lecturer, International Congress of Mathematicians, Berlin.
- January 1998. Alfred North Whitehead Lecturer, Imperial College, London.
- July, 1995. Plenary Lecturer: International Commission for the Study and Improvement of Mathematics.
- Teaching. Berlin Germany, Spring, 1992, eight lectures on the topic "Mathematics, Society, and Education" at the Roskilde, Denmark.
- University Center and at the Technische Universität, Berlin, Germany.
- 1991 he delivered the Hendrick Lectures of the Mathematical Association of America. These lectures elaborated in a book entitled **Spirals: From Theodorus to Chaos**.