CONTENTS

Introduction .............................................................................................................. xi

Autobiographical Essay by Ralph P. Boas, Jr. ...................................................... 1

Reminiscences ......................................................................................................... 25
  by Frank Smithies, Harold P. Boas, Deborah Tepper Haimo, and Philip J. Davis

1. Lion Hunting ........................................................................................................ 41
   A Contribution to the Mathematical Theory of Big Game Hunting, by H. Pétard, 43
   • A New Method of Catching a Lion, by I.J. Good, 47
   • On a Theorem of H. Pétard, by Christian Roselius, 48
   • Some Modern Mathematical Methods in the Theory of Lion Hunting, by Otto Morphy, 49
   • Further Techniques in the Theory of Big Game Hunting, by Patricia L. Dudley et al., 53
   • 15 New Ways to Catch a Lion, by John Barrington, 55
   • Lion-Hunting with Logic, by Houston Euler, 60
   • A Brief Dictionary of Phrases Used in Mathematical Writing, by H. Pétard, 63

2. Infinite Series ...................................................................................................... 65
   Cantilevered Books, 67
   • Snowfalls and Elephants, Pop Bottles and π, 68
   • Distribution of Digits in Integers, 78
   • Tannery’s Theorem, 83
   • Power Series for Practical Purposes, 85
   • The Rose Acacia, 90

3. Recollections and Verse I .................................................................................. 95
   Anecdotes, 97
   • Echolalia, 101
   • Time’s Revenges, 101
   • Prerequisites, 102
   • Algorithms, 102
   • Calculators, 103
   • Limericks, 103
   • Clerihews, 104
4. The Mean Value Theorem ........................................... 107
   Travelers’ Surprises, 109 • Who Needs Those Mean-Value Theorems,
   Anyway? 117

5. Recollections and Verse II ........................................... 123
   Anecdotes, 125 • Announcement of *Trivia Mathematica*, 127 • Nonsense
   (I. Cloudy Weather on the Increase (News Item), II. Cape Cod Song, III.
   Roadside Signs), 129 • The Row Reduction Song, 130 • It Couldn’t
   Happen Here (with H. P. Boas), 131 • The Way, 132

6. Indeterminate Forms .................................................. 133
   L’Hospital’s Rule without Mean-Value Theorems, 135 • Counterexamples to
   L’Hôpital’s Rule, 138 • Indeterminate Forms Revisited, 141

7. Recollections and Verse III .......................................... 149
   Anecdotes, 151 • Inflation, 153 • Editorial Policy, 153 • Dialog, 154 •
   The Author and the Editors, 155 • Colloquium Lecture, 155 • Triolet, 156
   • Please Feed the Archives, 156 • Manuscript Found in a Page Proof, 157

8. Complex Variables ..................................................... 159
   Yet Another Proof of the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, 161 • When
   Is a $C^\infty$ Function Analytic?, 163 • Simplification of Some Contour
   Integrations (with M. L. Boas), 169

9. Recollections and Verse IV ........................................... 171
   Anecdotes, 173 • Excelsior! 178 • Pereant, 178 • The Assistant Professor
   Blues, 179 • Indignation, 180 • An Appreciation of Deans, 180 •
   Computers Are Icumen In, 181 • Contemporary Love Song, 182 • The
   BASIC Blues, 182 • Hints for Programmers, 183

10. Inverse Functions ..................................................... 185
    Inverse Functions, 187 • Inverse Functions and Integration by Parts (with
    M. Marcus), 194

11. Recollections and Verse V ........................................... 197
    Anecdotes, 199 • Graffiti, Anyone? 202 • Ballade of Old
    Mathematics, 202 • Envoy, 203 • Getting Even (I. Dorstenia: The
    Indirect Insult, II. Magic Word), 203 • Spelling Lesson, 204 • Naming
    Things, 205

12. Bourbaki .............................................................. 207
    Bourbaki and Me, 209 • Letter to *Scientific American*, 211 •
    Bourbaki, 213 • Sonnet, 216 • Game Adjourned, 217
CONTENTS ix

13. The Teaching of Mathematics .................................................. 221
   “If This Be Treason…”, 223 • Calculus as an Experimental Science, 226
   • Can We Make Mathematics Intelligible?, 230 • Boxing the Chain
   Rule, 238 • Names of Functions: The Problems of Trying for
   Precision, 240 • Does “Holds Water” Hold Water?, 242

14. Polynomials ............................................................................. 245
   Extremal Problems for Polynomials, 247 • Periodic Entire Functions, 250

15. Literature and Mathematics ..................................................... 251
   1724 Lilliputians, 253 • Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night, II, iii, 25–27
   (with R. P. Boas), 255 • What St. Augustine Didn’t Say about
   Mathematicians, 257 • The Temptation of Professor McShohat, 258
   • Sleeper, 263 • A Translation of Mayakovsky’s “Hymn to Learning”, 265
   • Camp Buiner (1940), 266 • Poets, 266

16. Reviews and Miscellaneous Articles ........................................ 267
   Are Mathematicians Unnecessary?, 269 • Review of The World of
   Mathematics, 273 • Review of The Mathematics of Physics and
   Chemistry, 275 • Review of Printing of Mathematics and Mathematics in
   Type, 277

Reminiscences by Students ............................................................ 280
   Dale H. Mugler, Carl L. Prather, Antoinette M. Trembinska

Ralph P. Boas, Jr.—Bibliography .................................................. 289

Index ............................................................................................. 301