RAMBO, Susan M. April 3, 1883–January 7, 1977.
Smith College (BA 1905, MA 1913), University of Michigan (PhD 1920).

Susan Miller Rambo was born in Easton, Pennsylvania, the eldest of five children of Annie Roberta (Kortz) (b. 1852) and George Green Rambo (b. 1842). Her mother was from Easton, in eastern Pennsylvania. Her father, who was born in New Jersey, was a wholesale grocer in Easton after his marriage to Annie Kortz in about 1880. The other children were Ella K. (b. 1884), George D. (1886–1945), Isabel K. (1887–1974)), and Annie R. (b. 1890).

Susan Rambo attended high school in her home town of Easton before entering Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She graduated from Smith in 1905 and taught mathematics in the high school in Hoosick Falls, New York, near the Massachusetts border for two of the years between 1905 and 1908.

In the fall of 1908, Susan Rambo and Pauline Sperry, who had earned a BA in 1906 and an MA in 1908 from Smith, were hired as assistants in mathematics at Smith College, in part, presumably, since Ruth G. Wood was on leave to study at Göttingen for the year. Except for leaves of absence, Rambo remained in the department at Smith the remainder of her career: as assistant 1908–11, instructor 1911–18, assistant professor 1918–22, associate professor 1922–37, professor 1937–48, and professor emeritus after her retirement in 1948.

In addition to her teaching, Rambo also took graduate courses in her early years at Smith. She had courses in mathematics (Projective Geometry, Theory of Functions, Descriptive Geometry, and History of Mathematics) and in astronomy (Analytical Mechanics, Transit Instrument, Equatorial Telescope, Computing, and History of Astronomy) and received a master's degree from Smith in 1913. References in her master's thesis also include lectures by C. J. Keyser at Columbia University in 1907 and by G. A. Bliss at the University of Chicago in 1910.

In 1916, having taken a leave of absence for the year 1916–17, Rambo entered the University of Michigan. Her Smith colleague and friend, Suzan Benedict, had received her PhD two years earlier from Michigan. Rambo was in residence at Michigan for two years and received her degree in 1920, two years after returning to her position at Smith.

Rambo's many contributions at Smith include introducing a statistics course in her first decade there and serving as department chairman from 1934 to 1940. She attended the International Congress of Mathematicians in Bologna in 1928. Rambo was also a member of the Connecticut Valley Section of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England and of the Round Hill Club, a paper reading club in Springfield. She took a leave of absence the second semester 1937–38 during which she made a trip around the world.

In the Smith College Twenty-Fifth Reunion Class Book in 1930 it was noted that Susan Rambo "drives a Ford, gardens, and keeps a charming home with a friend." She shared a house with Suzan Benedict at one site from 1918 to 1924 and at a second from 1924 until Benedict's death in 1942. Their home was typically the location for the department Christmas party. In 1945 Rambo relinquished her life tenure on the house, and it went to Smith to be sold and the proceeds to be used for scholarships.

Rambo died in a Northampton nursing home in 1977 and was survived by a niece and three nephews; at least two other nephews had been killed in World War

II. In an obituary notice Neal McCoy, a Smith colleague, observed that she had been "impatient with stupidity and appalled by indolence," had had a "lifelong passion for flowers," and was a "kind and generous lady." She was buried in Easton, Pennsylvania. The Susan M. Rambo Fund that provides support for summer student research in mathematics at Smith was established in her memory by a 1931 graduate of Smith.

Organizational affiliations: AMS, MAA, AAAS, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi.

Thesis and dissertation:
1913 A comparative study of analytic and synthetic projective geometry. MA thesis, Smith College. Typescript.
1920 The point at infinity as a regular point of certain linear difference equations of the second order. PhD dissertation, University of Michigan, directed by Walter Burton Ford.

Publications:
1905 A defense of immigration. *Smith College Monthly* 12:465–70.
1946 Review of *College Mathematics: A General Introduction*, by C. H. Sisam. *Science* n.s., 104:169.

References to: AmMSc 3–8, 9P–10P; AmWom 1935–40.
[Article about Rambo's retirement]. *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* (Aug 1948): 208.
Obituary. *Springfield Union*, 8 Jan 1977.
McCoy, N. H. "Susan M. Rambo." *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* (Apr 1977): 62.

Other sources: Owens questionnaire 1937; Smith College Archives; University of Michigan Archives; University of Michigan Alumni Records Office; US Census 1880, 1900, 1910 PA, 1930 MA.

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