TULLER, Annita. December 30, 1910–August 29, 1994.

Hunter College (BA 1929), Bryn Mawr College (MA 1930, PhD 1937).

Annita Tuller was the daughter of Ida (Bick) (1883–1931) and Morris Tuller (1886–1934), natives of Russia who were likely Jewish. Her mother had attended religious school and her father the equivalent of high school before they came to the United States in 1908. Her parents married in November 1909, Annita was born a year later in Brooklyn, New York, and a brother, Theodore, was born in 1916. Her mother was a housewife, her father was a jeweler, and her brother later became a physician.

Annita Tuller received her primary and secondary education in the public schools of Brooklyn. She graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in 1925 at age fourteen and entered Hunter College that same year. In 1985 Tuller recalled from her Hunter experience that Carolyn Eisele, her freshman mathematics teacher, "inspired me, as an undergraduate, to change my major from French to Math," and the "lectures [of Louis Weisner] on Non-Euclidean Geometry focussed my interest in geometries" (Smithsonian questionnaire). In her dissertation vita, she thanked Lao G. Simons of Hunter "who suggested I do graduate work in math."

In the fall of 1929, after her graduation from Hunter, Tuller entered, as a graduate scholar, Bryn Mawr College, where her first graduate school instructor was Anna Pell Wheeler, whom she described as "a role model for me, [who] inspired me to go on to the Ph.D." (Smithsonian questionnaire). After earning her master's degree at the end of the academic year 1929–30, she returned to Hunter, at age nineteen, as a substitute instructor in mathematics for a year. From 1931 to 1935 she was a mathematics and physics teacher at William Cullen Bryant High School in Long Island City, Queens, New York. She returned to Bryn Mawr, as a resident fellow 1935–36 and as a graduate scholar 1936–37. She completed her work for the PhD with a dissertation in differential geometry written under the direction of Gustav A. Hedlund, whom she later indicated, "encouraged me all the way" (Smithsonian questionnaire).

Tuller became a tutor at Hunter College in the fall of 1937, just after she received her Bryn Mawr PhD. She was in Europe in the summer of 1938. On November 23, 1938, she married Morris Levine (1912–1983) of Brooklyn, who worked for, and later became circulation manager for, a newspaper publishing firm in New York. The Levines had two daughters, Judith, born in 1942, and Diane, born in 1944. Judith graduated from the University of Southern California and did graduate work later. Diane graduated from Swarthmore College and earned a PhD from Columbia University in 1973 in language and modern literature.

Annita Tuller, who continued to use her maiden name professionally, remained on the faculty at Hunter College: as tutor 1937–39, instructor 1939–49, assistant professor 1949–61, and associate professor 1961–68. She was teaching at the Bronx campus of Hunter when it became an independent college, Herbert H. Lehman College (CUNY), in 1968. She then taught at Lehman as professor and retired as professor emeritus on February 1, 1971.

During her career at Hunter and at Lehman, Tuller taught a variety of undergraduate courses as well as graduate courses in non-Euclidean geometry, modern geometries, analytic projective geometry, and differential geometry. She taught in an NSF summer institute in 1959 and in an academic year institute in 1965–66. She gave a number of talks, mainly in geometry; two were to the Veterans Math Club at the Fort Trumbull Division of the University of Connecticut in 1949 and 1950. From 1958 to 1970, as a member of the MAA Speaker's Bureau, she spoke in high schools in the New York metropolitan area. She was active in the Metropolitan New York Section of the History of Science Society, for which she was chairman of the hospitality committee in the mid-1950s and was treasurer from 1959 for about a decade. She also was a member of the New York Academy

of Sciences. Tuller did several pre-publication reviews for publishers, reviewed a number of books for *Scripta Mathematica*, worked for *Collier's Encyclopedia* on a revision of a bibliography in mathematics, and, most notably, wrote a widely used and admired text, *A Modern Introduction to Geometries*, which appeared in 1967.

When her children were in elementary school, Tuller was active in the PTA. Later she did community work as a member of the Briarwood Community Association and volunteer work recording mathematics texts for the blind. She was a member of UNA-USA (United Nations Association of the United States of America), the US Committee for UNICEF, Common Cause, AARP, and was a registered Democrat.

Annita Tuller moved to a residence for senior citizens in Cupertino, California, after suffering a serious heart attack in early 1993. She was living there at the time of her death at age eighty-three in 1994.

Organizational affiliations: AMS, MAA, AAAS, AAUW, AAUP, Hist. Sci. Soc., Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Mu Epsilon.

Dissertation:
1937 The measure of transitive geodesics on certain three-dimensional manifolds. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, directed by Gustav Arnold Hedlund. Printed version, 1938, reprinted from *Duke Math. J.* 4:78–94.

Publications:
1938 The measure of transitive geodesics on certain three-dimensional manifolds. *Duke Math. J.* 4:78–94. Published version of PhD dissertation. Reviews: *JFM* 64.0765.04 (G. A. Hedlund); *Zbl* 018.27301 (E. Hopf). Presented to the AMS, State College, PA, 7 Sep 1937; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 43:467–68 #284.
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References to: AmMSc 6–8, 9P–11P; AmMWSc 12P–13P, 14–24; WhoAmW 7.

Other sources: PhD dissertation vita 1938; Owens questionnaire 1940; Smithsonian questionnaire 1985; Bryn Mawr College Alumnae Files; Bryn Mawr College Archives; US Census 1920, 1930 NY; SSDI.

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