

**MARTIN, Emilie Norton.** December 30, 1869–February 8, 1936.

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE (BA 1894, PhD 1901).

Emilie Norton Martin was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, the eldest of three surviving children of Mary Holmes (Ford) (b. 1838) and Robert Wilkie Martin (b. 1841) of Pennsylvania. Her parents married in 1868, and her siblings were a sister, Mary Ford (b. 1871), and a brother, Collier Ford (1873–1941). Her father was a surgeon, and her brother became a physician and professor of medicine in Philadelphia.

Martin was prepared for college at Mrs. E. L. Head’s School in Germantown, Philadelphia, and by private study. She entered Bryn Mawr College in 1890 and remained a student affiliated with the college for most of the decade. Her major areas of study as an undergraduate were Latin and mathematics. Immediately after she earned her bachelor’s degree in 1894, she began graduate studies there.

Martin was a graduate student in mathematics and physics during the first semester 1894–95 and was a teacher of Latin in the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore during the second semester of that year. She resumed her studies as a fellow in mathematics 1895–96 and continued as a graduate student 1896–97. The Mathematics Journal Club at Bryn Mawr began in the fall of 1896, and records show that Martin, who spoke on a topic in group theory, was one of four graduate students who gave presentations that year. The other speakers were Charlotte A. Scott and James Harkness, the Bryn Mawr mathematics faculty members; Frank Morley and E. W. Brown, mathematics faculty from nearby Haverford College; and [Isabel Maddison](#), an 1896 Bryn Mawr PhD recipient who was a reader in mathematics.

Charlotte Scott, in a letter of March 19, 1897, to Felix Klein, wrote, “I am expecting to send two of my best students to Göttingen next year; to both of them have been awarded College Fellowships, . . . One of them you met when you were here that Sunday afternoon” (Klein Nachlass, XI, Briefe an Klein, Universitätsarchiv Göttingen). One was Emilie Martin, as a holder of the Mary E. Garrett European fellowship; other Bryn Mawr students in Göttingen during the year 1897–98 were [Virginia Ragsdale](#) and Fanny Gates. All were in Klein’s course in Mechanik during the winter semester, and Martin and Ragsdale were in the course in the summer semester of 1897–98. Ragsdale also studied with David Hilbert at Göttingen.

Martin returned to Bryn Mawr as a fellow by courtesy in mathematics for the year 1898–99. According to the description of her life given in her dissertation, she studied mathematics with Charlotte Scott and James Harkness, passed her doctoral examination in the spring of 1899, with a “double minor” in physics, which she studied under Arthur Stanley Mackenzie. Although her name and dissertation title appear in the 1899 commencement program and on the 1899 list in *Science* of doctorates conferred, her PhD was dated 1901, the year her dissertation was published. The published version, which bears a slightly different title than the title that appeared in 1899, was mentioned in G. A. Miller’s second and third reports on progress in finite group theory published in the *Bulletin* of the AMS in 1902 and 1907, respectively. Her dissertation was written under the direction of James Harkness; nonetheless, Harkness does not seem to have been the faculty member by whom she felt most influenced. Martin later endowed a mathematical book fund at Bryn Mawr “in appreciation of . . . inspiration given during her study under

the guidance of Professor Charlotte Angas Scott" (Bryn Mawr College Library, Mathematical Book Fund).

Emilie Martin's first position after leaving Bryn Mawr in 1899 was as a teacher of mathematics in the Misses Kirk's School, Rosemont, Pennsylvania, during 1899–1900. She was also a collaborator for the *Revue semestrielle des publications mathématiques* during the years 1899–1902. Martin did postgraduate work at Bryn Mawr in 1901–02, when her name again appears on the list of those giving talks in the journal club. She was also a private tutor of mathematics and Latin 1893–1903.

Martin took a position as instructor at Mount Holyoke College in 1903. She was an instructor there 1903–04 and first semester 1904–05. She had a leave of absence for the second semester of 1904–05. During this period she compiled the general index for the years 1891–1904 of the *Bulletin* of the AMS. Martin returned to Bryn Mawr for postdoctoral study in 1906–07 and again participated in the journal club. Her presentations were on methods of representing functions of a complex variable and on Klein's new kind of Riemann surface.

In 1907 Martin returned to Mount Holyoke College as instructor. She remained at that rank until 1911, when she was promoted to associate professor. She was promoted to professor in 1925 and became professor emeritus after her resignation in September 1935. She was also department chairman from 1927 through 1935.

Martin described herself as a Presbyterian in 1914 and later was said to have maintained an interest in religious issues. Also in 1914, she listed herself as a member of the American Geographical Society and the College Club of Philadelphia. In addition to her work as a mathematics professor, she was a resident faculty member of Pearsons Hall, where she lived during the greater part of her career at Mount Holyoke. She also was secretary of the Mount Holyoke branch of the AAUP. She traveled in Europe in the summer of 1926. For many years she spent summers with her sister in Montreat, North Carolina.

In 1934 Emilie Martin was diagnosed with cancer and underwent surgery in June of that year. She resigned her position in September 1935 and died in February 1936 at age sixty-six in her apartment in Hooker House on the Mount Holyoke campus. One of Martin's closest friends, Frances Haynes, assistant librarian at Mount Holyoke, accompanied her body to Philadelphia, where she was buried.

**Organizational affiliations:** AMS, MAA (charter member), AAAS, AAUP.

**Dissertation:**

**1899** Determination of the non-primitive substitution groups of degree fifteen and of the primitive substitution groups of degree eighteen. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, directed by James Harkness. Printed version, 1901, Baltimore, MD, reprinted from *Amer. J. Math.* 23:259–86. PhD granted 1901.

**Publications:**

**1901** On the imprimitive substitution groups of degree fifteen and the primitive substitution groups of degree eighteen. *Amer. J. Math.* 23:259–86. Published version of PhD dissertation. Reviews: *JFM* 32.0157.01 (A. Loewy); *Rev. semestr. publ. math.* 10, pt. 1: 2–3 (P. H. Schoute). Presented as "Note on the imprimitive substitution groups of degree fifteen, and on the primitive substitution groups of degree eighteen" by G. A. Miller to the AMS, Columbus, OH, 25 Aug 1899; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 6:10.

**1904** (Compiler) *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society. General Index. 1891–1904*. Macmillan Company.

**1917** Relating to required mathematics for women students. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 24:394–98. Reprint: 1978. *AWM Newsletter* 8 (2): 10–12.

**1923** Some varieties of space. *Math. Teacher* 16:470–80.

**1933** Review of *Arithmetic for Teachers*, by H. E. Glazier. *Mount Holyoke Alumnae Quarterly* 17 (May): 26.

**References to:** AmMSc 1–5, AmWomSc, BiDWSci, [BioWMath](#), WomScSearch, Wom-WWA.

“Dr. Emilie Norton Martin, Former Mt. Holyoke College Professor, Dies.” *Holyoke Transcript*, 8 Feb 1936.

“Miss Emilie N. Martin.” (Obituary) *New York Times*, 9 Feb 1936.

“Funeral Services for Prof. Martin.” *Holyoke Transcript*, 10 Feb 1936.

**Other sources:** PhD dissertation life; Williams Papers; Bryn Mawr College Archives; Universitätsarchiv Göttingen, Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek; Mount Holyoke College Archives; communications with Bryn Mawr College Archives and with Mount Holyoke College Archives; [Bryn Mawr College Library](#), [Mathematical Book Fund](#); G. A. Miller, “Second report on recent progress in the theory of groups of finite order,” *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 9 (1902): 106-123; G. A. Miller, “Third report on recent progress in the theory of groups of finite order,” *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 14 (1907): 124-133; Whitman, “Women in the American Mathematical Society before 1900.” Pt. 3; US Census 1870 NY, 1880 FL, 1900 PA, 1930 MA; Massachusetts death certificate.

Last modified: March 26, 2009.