GUGGENBUHL, Laura. November 18, 1901–March 8, 1985.
Hunter College (BA 1922), Bryn Mawr College (MA 1924, PhD 1927).

Laura Guggenbuhl (often Guggenbühl until the late 1930s) was the younger of two surviving children (of four born) of Emma Marie (Wildhaber) (b. 1867) and Fritz Guggenbühl (b. 1859), both natives of Switzerland. Her mother had immigrated to the United States in 1887, and her father in 1888, about a year before their marriage. Her brother, Frederick G. W. (1900–1984), was born in New Jersey. According to the 1900 census, in June of that year the parents and infant son were living in Saratoga Springs, New York, where her father was a butcher in a hotel. Laura Guggenbuhl was born the next year in New York City; in 1910 the family of four was living in Manhattan, and her father was a baker in his own bakery. By 1920 her mother was widowed, and the census report of that year indicates that the two children and their mother, who was working as a clerk in a bakery, were still living in Manhattan. Laura's brother, Frederick, became a physician.

Laura Guggenbuhl attended public schools in New York City before entering Hunter College in 1918. While there she was a member of the mathematics club and played basketball. She gave her first talk to the Hunter mathematics club at the end of her first year there. By the end of her second year, she had submitted solutions to problems in the *Monthly* and about that time organized a "Problem Chapter" of the mathematics club. She attended Columbia University in summer 1920 and New York University in 1921. She was a teacher in training at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn January–June 1922 before receiving her bachelor's degree with a major in mathematics from Hunter in 1922. She then began her graduate studies in mathematics at Columbia in summer 1922 in classes given by W. B. Fite and Dunham Jackson. Guggenbuhl was hired as an instructor at Hunter for the year 1922–23 before continuing her graduate studies.

From 1923 to 1926 Guggenbuhl studied at Bryn Mawr College, first as a graduate scholar in mathematics 1923–24 before receiving her master's degree in 1924. She remained at Bryn Mawr as a resident fellow 1924–26. She continued to teach at Hunter during the summers and returned to Hunter as instructor in 1926. The following year she received her PhD in mathematics and education from Bryn Mawr College as Anna Pell Wheeler's third dissertation student. While at Bryn Mawr she also studied with Charlotte A. Scott and D. V. Widder.

Guggenbuhl remained on the faculty at Hunter College until her retirement in 1972. She was instructor 1926–32, assistant professor 1932–59, and associate professor 1959–72. Her research interests were largely in the history of mathematics. In 1950 she published her first historical articles: on Gunstock, the home of the nineteenth-century American astronomer Asaph Hall, and on Euclidean geometry. Several articles followed as well as entries in the *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* on Henri Brocard and Karl Wilhelm Feuerbach. Between 1966 and 1987 sixty-six of her reviews, half of which were in history and biography, appeared in *Mathematical Reviews*; almost three-quarters of these were reviews of articles in Russian with the others in German, Italian, and English.

Guggenbuhl reported in the mid-1960s that she had been a consultant for the Institute of Personality Assessment and Research at the University of California, Berkeley. She was a member of many professional societies and was a frequent participant in meetings. She attended the International Congress of Mathematicians

in Zurich in 1932, Cambridge (USA) in 1950, Amsterdam in 1954, Edinburgh in 1958, Stockholm in 1962, Moscow in 1966, and Nice in 1970. She served as official delegate from Hunter College to the congresses in 1932, 1954, 1962, 1966, and 1970. She made many other trips to Europe as well and reported in *Science* on two meetings she attended: the July 1955 Congress of the French Association for the Advancement of Science, in Caen, and the September 1961 symposium on topology and its relation to modern analysis and algebra, in Prague. She was a member of the New York Academy of Sciences.

In 1939 Guggenbuhl reported her hobbies as travel and photography and her favorite recreations as motoring, swimming, bridge, football, and basketball. She traveled extensively after her retirement and in 1976 participated in a study tour to Canton, People's Republic of China. She was a member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Opera Guild. She was active in Hunter College alumnae activities and held a number of offices including treasurer and member of the board of directors of the Scholarship and Welfare Fund. She was particularly active in fund raising. At various times she was a member of the committee for the Bryn Mawr College Endowment Fund; was chairman of the Hunter College Faculty Committee on Community Funds; and was chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, which involved fund raising, for the New York City Branch of AAUW. She was a Protestant. The last several years of her life she lived in White Plains, New York, as did her brother and his wife.

On May 6, 1985, Laura Guggenbuhl's sister-in-law wrote to Bryn Mawr College. "This is a difficult missive to write.... Her brother Dr. Frederick Guggenbuhl died last Sept. 1984. We were overcome with grief and took a 3 mo. round-the-world cruise thinking it would help our grief. However, it did not and Dr. Laura died March 8th as the Queen Elizabeth II was leaving Hong Kong.... She was a brilliant woman and a dear kindly person and will be missed greatly" (Bryn Mawr College Archives, Alumnae Association Files).

Organizational affiliations: AMS, MAA, Deutsch. Math.-Verein., Soc. Math. France, Soc. Math. Suisse, AAAS, French Assoc. for the Adv. of Sci., Swiss Assoc. for the Adv. of Sci., Hist. Sci. Soc., Coll. Public Relations Assoc., AAAS, AAUW, Pi Mu Epsilon.

Dissertation:

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Publications:

1927 An integral equation with an associated integral condition. *Ann. of Math.* 2nd ser., 29:21–37. Published version of PhD dissertation. Reviews: *JFM* 53.0359.01 (B. M. Wilson); *Rev. semestr. publ. math.* 34, pt. 1: 65 (W. A. Wythoff).

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Other sources: PhD dissertation vita 1927; Owens questionnaire 1937; Bryn Mawr College Archives; US Census 1900, 1910, 1920 NY.

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