**GRIFFIN, Harriet.** April 6, 1903–January 13, 1991.
Hunter College (BA 1925), Columbia University (MA 1929), New York University (PhD 1939).

Harriet Madeline Griffin was born in Brooklyn, New York, the first of two daughters of Mary Madeline (Gully) (1867–1937) and James Harry Griffin (1872–1936), natives of Brooklyn. Her mother had an elementary school education and became a homemaker after her marriage in 1902. Her father received a high school education; he was a salesman for a furniture store in 1910 and a buyer for a furniture house in 1920. Her sister, Jessie (1904–1971), became a high school mathematics teacher after graduating from Hunter the same year as Harriet. Harriet Griffin recalled in 1985 that her father liked mathematics and encouraged her involvement in the subject.

Harriet Griffin attended Hunter College and while there gave two talks, on the mathematics of time and of astronomy, to the mathematics club and was a member of the Newman Club. She won the Thomas Hunter Prize in Mathematics when she graduated in 1925. She was one of the charter members of Pi Mu Epsilon when it was established at Hunter in 1925 and served as the chapter's first vice-director; in the late 1950s she was one of the councilors-general at the national level.

Griffin remained at Hunter as a tutor 1926–29 and as an instructor 1929–30. She earned her master's degree from Columbia in 1929, having written her master's essay, "Modern Geometry in Three Dimensions." In 1930 the Brooklyn branch of the female-only Hunter College merged with the Brooklyn branch of the male-only City College to become the coeducational Brooklyn College. At that time Griffin moved to a position at the newly opened college, and she remained on the faculty there for thirty-six years. While there she earned her PhD in 1939 at New York University with a dissertation in abstract algebra. At that time she became a member of the Key Pin Society, an honorary society at NYU.

Griffin began her career at Brooklyn College in 1930 as instructor in the women's division. Starting in 1932, the faculty was no longer divided between the men's and women's divisions, and she remained an instructor until 1940. She was assistant professor 1940–50, associate professor 1950–56, professor 1956–66, and professor emeritus after her retirement in 1966. Her teaching included advanced calculus, differential equations, and abstract algebra and theory of matrices, but her major interests lay in the theory of numbers. She is listed on the faculty of the graduate division starting 1946–47. From 1956 to 1964 she taught courses in arithmetic and algebraic theory of numbers and in theory of matrices, and she was advisor for a number of master's theses in number theory in the graduate division at Brooklyn College. She used her own course notes for number theory and for abstract algebra. In addition, Griffin published a textbook in number theory that appeared in both hardback and paperback editions. After Griffin's retirement from Brooklyn College she taught two years, 1966–68, at Molloy College in Rockville Centre, New York.

During World War II, Griffin taught mathematics and did vocational counseling at the United Service Organization in New York. She was a Roman Catholic and was a member of the Albertus Magnus Guild, an organization for Catholics in science. She was also a member of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Harriet Griffin moved to Lakewood, New Jersey, after her retirement. She died in 1991 at age eighty-seven in Kimball Medical Center in Lakewood, having suffered from heart failure. She was survived by two cousins.

**Organizational affiliations:** AMS, MAA, AAAS (fellow), Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Pi Mu Epsilon.

**Thesis and dissertation:**
**1929** Modern geometry of three dimensions. MA thesis, Columbia University.
**1939** The abelian quasi-group. PhD dissertation, New York University, directed by Donald Alexander Flanders. Typescript. Printed version, 1940, reprinted from *Amer. J. Math.* 62:725–37.

**Publications:**
**1931** Review of *Tutorial Exercises in Trigonometry*, by R. W. Brink and E. Thorp. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 38:451.
**1940** The abelian quasi-group. *Amer. J. Math.* 62:725–37. Published version of PhD dissertation. Reviews: *JFM* 66.0095.01 (L. Holzer); *MR* 2,127f (H. S. Wall); *Zbl* 024.15004 (H. Ulm). Presented by title to the AMS, Columbus, OH, 29 Dec 1939; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 46:43 #74.
**1947** *The Concepts of the Theory of Numbers*. Brooklyn, NY: Brooklyn College Press. Rev. ed.: 1949.
**1954** *Elementary Theory of Numbers*. International Series in Pure and Applied Mathematics. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co. Reviews: *Amer. Math. Monthly* 62:132 (V. J. Varineau); *MR* 16,220d (W. Ljunggren); *Scripta Math.* 24:157 (K. M. Herstein); *Zbl* 058.03203 (E. Lamprecht). McGraw-Hill paperback, 1964. Review: *Amer. Math. Monthly* 81:541 (S. Galovich).
**1962** *Systems of Abstract Algebra*. Brooklyn, NY: Brooklyn College Book Store.
**1965** Discovering properties of the natural numbers. *Arith. Teacher* 12:627–32.
**1971** Fractions in $s$-adic form. *Math. Teacher* 64:572–76.

**References to:** AmMSc 7–8, 9P–11P; BiDWSci.
"Harriet M. Griffin" in "New Officers of the Fraternity." *Pi Mu Epsilon Journal* 2 (Spring 1957): 281.
"Harriet M. Griffin: Professor, 87." *New York Times*, 22 Jan 1991.

**Other sources:** Smithsonian questionnaire 1985; Brooklyn College Archives; Hunter College Archives; US Census 1910, 1920, 1930 NY.

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