Georges De Rham Encyclopedia Article

Georges De Rham

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Georges De Rham

1903-1990

De Rham was born in 1903 in Roche, Canton Vaud, Switzerland. When he entered the University of Lausanne in 1921, he had every intention of majoring in chemistry, physics, and biology. However, numerous questions came up in physics that required more advanced studies in mathematics. He found this field so intriguing that he finally abandoned the sciences and devoted himself exclusively to mathematics. He studied for his doctorate in Paris and, upon earning the degree, he returned to his alma mater in Lausanne. He eventually was granted full professorships at both the University at Lausanne and the University of Geneva. In addition to many honors bestowed upon him, he received honorary degrees from the universities of Strasbourg, Lyon, Grenoble, and l'Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Zurich. He was also president of the International Mathematical Union for two years.