Helen Merrill Encyclopedia Article

Helen Merrill

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Helen Merrill

1864-1949

American mathematics instructor who was appointed chairperson of the mathematics department at Wellesley University, a position she held until her retirement in 1932. Merrill authored or co-authored three mathematical textbooks. Her last, *Mathematical Excursions: Side Trips along Paths Not Generally Traveled in Elementary Courses in Mathematics*, was written for the general public. Merrill was also very active with the Mathematics Association of America from its inception. She also served as vice-president (1920-1921) of the Mathematical Association of America. In addition to her mathematical interests, Merrill was also a published poet, writing several poems about her field of study.