Samuel Eilenberg Encyclopedia Article

Samuel Eilenberg

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Samuel Eilenberg

1913-1988

American mathematician and legendary collector of south Asian art. He received his Ph.D. from Warsaw University in Poland in 1939 and later went to Columbia University in 1947. His work created a new discipline of mathematics, algebraic topology, using algebra to describe how certain properties of multidimensional forms remain unchanged even when the forms are bent, twisted, or stretched.