



Lipman Bers: A Life in Mathematics

By Linda Keen

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The book is part biography and part collection of mathematical essays that gives the reader a perspective on the evolution of an interesting mathematical life. It is all about Lipman Bers, a giant in the mathematical world who lived in turbulent and exciting times. It captures the essence of his mathematics, a development and transition from applied mathematics to complex analysis - quasiconformal mappings and moduli of Riemann surfaces - and the essence of his personality, a progression from a young revolutionary refugee to an elder statesman in the world of mathematics and a fighter for global human rights and the end of political torture. The book contains autobiographical material and short reprints of his work. The main content is in the exposition of his research contributions, sometimes with novel points of view, by students, grand-students, and colleagues. The research described was fundamental to the growth of a central part of 20th century mathematics that, now in the 21st century, is in a healthy state with much current interest and activity. The addition of personal recollections, professional tributes, and photographs yields a picture of a man, his personal and professional family, and his time.

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Lipman Bers: A Life in Mathematics By Linda Keen Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4626108 in Books
- Published on: 2015-09-15
- Original language: English
- Dimensions: 9.75" h x 7.00" w x 1.00" l, 1.40 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 329 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

[T]his is a fascinating book in which one can get lost, but it seems a must for anyone interested in Riemann surfaces, quasiconformal mappings, Teichmüller theory, and deformation spaces, and, in particular, the history and developments of these subjects, but more generally also the history of mathematics and mathematicians between Europe and the US in the last century. --Bruno P. Zimmermann, *Mathematical Reviews*

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