

ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

**FRITZ ROTHBERGER FONDS**  
**Accession 2011.007-RTH**



**Compiled by Bethany Jost**  
**October 2011**

**Fritz Rothberger fonds. – [textual records, graphic material]. – [19-?], 1945-1967.  
– 4cm of textual records. – 1 photograph : b&w**

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## Scope and Content

The fonds consists of the personal papers of Fritz Rothberger, including correspondence, working notes, drafts of papers, article off prints, and a photograph.

### File list:

2011.007-RTH/1 incoming correspondence (1945-1958) includes correspondence from Paul Erdos concerning other European mathematicians, family members, and from Waclaw Sierpinski concerning publications, specifically:

- [letter from W. Sierpinski](#) (1947)
- [letter from P. Erdos](#) [1945]
- [letter from Lord Beveridge](#) (1958)
- [letter from P. Erdos](#) (1946) letter discusses the article "On some problems of Hausdorff and of Sierpinski" which was published in *Fundamenta Mathematicae*, 1948. See folder 2011.007-RTH/6 for off print

2011.007-RTH/2 outgoing correspondence (1946-1967) includes correspondence to Paul Erdos concerning publications, to Waclaw Sierpinski concerning publications, and personal life, specifically:

- [letter from Rothberger](#) [1947]
- [letter to Father Faught](#) (1967)
- [letter to P. Erdos](#) (1946)
- [letter to P. Erdos](#) (1946)
- [letter to W. Sierpinski](#) (1946)
- [letter to Fundamenta Mathematicae](#) (1946)
- [letter to Fundamenta Mathematicae](#) (1947)

2011.007-RTH/3 working notes [19-?] includes formulas and notes, specifically:

- [memorandum \[19-?\] on Queen's University Letterhead](#)
- 8 part Rough Work [19-?]
- Rough Work 3 [19-?]
- 4 page Rough Work [19-?]
- 3 page Rough Work [19-?]

- 7 page Rough Work [19-?]

2011.007-RTH/4 drafts of papers and theorems [19-?], 1946-1960), specifically:

- [On Property C and a problem of Hausdorff](#) [19-?] item is an English version of the paper "Eine Verschärfung der Eigenschaft C", which was published in *Fundamenta Mathematicae*, 1938. See folder 2011.006-RTH/6 for off print
- [On the negation of the continuum hypothesis](#) [19-?]
- [Resume: Construction effective d'un ensemble non-projectif](#) (1956) item may be a summary of the paper "Exemple effectif d'un ensemble transfiniment non-projectif", which was published in the *Canadian Journal of Mathematics*, 1958. See folder 2011.006-RTH/6 for off print
- [Let F be a family of dyadic functions](#) (1946) item may be a working draft of article "A remark on the existence of a denumerable base for a family of function", which was published in the *Canadian Journal of Mathematics*, 1952. See folder 2011.007-RTH/6 for off print
- [Proof of Theorem I, II, and III](#) (1946)
- [A remark on the existence of a denumerable base for a family of dyadic functions](#) [19-?]
- [Part of Proof](#) [19-?]
- [Proof of Theorem 2](#) [19-?]
- [O. Nikodym's Problem](#) [19-?]
- [Letter to Lambert](#) (1960)

2011.007-RTH/5 [Canadian Mathematical Congress Summer Seminar and High School Teachers Conference at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia](#) (1951) image includes Fritz Rothberger

2011.007-RTH/6 off prints (1934-1967)

- Rothberger, Fritz. "Eine Homöomorphiebedingung für orientierbare Mannigfaltigkeiten von drei Dimensionen." (1934): 353-357. (2 copies)
- Rothberger, Fritz. "Eine Verschärfung der Eigenschaft C." *Fundamenta Mathematicae* 30 (1938): 50-55.
- Rothberger, Fritz. "Sur en ensemble toujours de première catégorie qui est dépourvu de la propriété  $\lambda$ ." *Fundamenta Mathematicae* 32 (1939): 294-300.
- Rothberger, Fritz. "On some problems of Hausdorff and of Sierpinski." *Fundamenta Mathematicae* 35 (1948): 29-46.

- Rothberger, Fritz. "Eine Äquivalenz zwischen der Kontinuumhypothese und der Existenz der Lusinschen und Sierpinski'schen Mengen." *Fundamenta Mathematicae* 30 [1938]: 215-217.
- Rothberger, Fritz. "Une remarque concernant l'hypothèse du continu." *Fundamenta Mathematicae* 31 [19-?]: 224-226.
- Rothberger, Fritz. "A Remark on the Existence of a Denumerable Base for a Family of Functions." *Canadian Journal of Mathematics* 4, no. 1 (1952): 117-119.
- Rothberger, Fritz. "On the Property C and a Problem of Hausdorff." *Canadian Journal of Mathematics* 4, no. 1 (1952): 111-116.
- Rothberger, Fritz. "Exemple Effectif d'un Ensemble Transfiniment Non-Projectif." *Canadian Journal of Mathematics* 10 (1958): 554-560.
- Rothberger, Fritz. "On Conformal Mapping Problem of Stoïlow and of Wolibner." *Colloquium Mathematicum* 17 (1967): 61-69.
- Rothberger, Fritz. "Sur les Familles Indénombrables de Suites de Nombres Naturels et les Problèmes Concernant la Propriété C." *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philosophical Society* 37, no. 2 (April 1941): 109-126.
- Rothberger, Fritz. "On Families of Real Functions with a Denumerable Base." *Annals of Mathematics* 45, no. 3 (July 1944): 397-406.

### Biographical History

Fritz Rothberger was born in Vienna in 1902. He was educated at Akademisches Gymnasium and later at the University of Vienna, earning his Baccalaureate in 1925. Two years later, he obtained his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Vienna. In 1937, he visited Warsaw and met with some of the leading mathematicians of the day, including Waclaw Sierpinski. Following this meeting, Rothberger began working in the mathematical field known as “combinatorial set theory,” which he pioneered. He moved to England sometime after his visit to Poland, but in 1940 was deported to Canada as an enemy alien. He was held in an internment camp in New Brunswick, where worked as a lumberjack. Rothberger became a professor at Acadia University in 1943, where he worked until 1949 when he transferred to University of New Brunswick at Fredericton. Before retiring in 1970, he also worked at Laval and the University of Windsor. Following his retirement he returned to Acadia University and continued to teach mathematics until 1981. He died in Wolfville in 2000.

### Custodial History

These records were removed from Dr. Rothberger's office at Acadia University at the time of his death, and were in the possession of personnel from the Mathematics Department until their donation to the Archives in 2011.

### Notes

Supplied title based on contents of fonds.

Order imposed by Archivist.

Records subject to the *Copyright Act*. Written permission from the Copyright holder is required in order to publish any of these records.

Digital copies of these records are available.

See also the Library's catalogue for publications by or about Fritz Rothberger.

For reasons of historic authenticity, all file titles provided by the author and captions provided by the photographer are transcribed unedited. The spelling of both peoples' and places' names has changed with time, so inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the titles are unavoidable. Files and captions may also contain inaccuracies or terms that would now be considered offensive.

### Citation for this electronic finding aid:

This finding aid should be cited as a website. Relevant information is as follows:

Title: Fritz Rothberger fonds

Date: 2011

Author: Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University

### Access Points

Rothberger, Fritz (1902-2000)

Acadia University. Department of Mathematics

Erdos, Paul (1913-1996)

Sierpinski, Waclaw (1882-1969)