

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910300245703321
Autore	Steinhaus Hugo
Titolo	Mathematician for All Seasons : Recollections and Notes Vol. 1 (1887-1945) // by Hugo Steinhaus ; edited by Robert G. Burns, Irena Szymaniec, Aleksander Weron
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Birkhäuser, , 2015
ISBN	3-319-21984-7
Edizione	[1st ed. 2015.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (499 p.)
Collana	Vita Mathematica, , 1013-0330 ; ; 18
Disciplina	510
Soggetti	Mathematics History History of Mathematical Sciences History, general
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	Foreword to the first Polish edition -- Introduction to the English edition -- Part I: Jaslo -- The Gymnasium -- In the capital Lwów -- Göttingen -- The return home -- The life of a private scholar -- Part II: In the university town Lwów -- The first occupation -- Interlude: Flashes of memory -- The second occupation -- Homeless wandering -- Osiczyna -- Interlude: Flashes of memory -- Stróże -- Diary entries -- A flash of memory -- Diary entries (continued) -- Between Kraków and Wrocław -- Wrocław -- A taste of America -- Wrocław again -- America again -- Home again -- Index of names.
Sommario/riassunto	This book presents, in his own words, the life of Hugo Steinhaus (1887–1972), noted Polish mathematician of Jewish background, educator, and mathematical popularizer. A student of Hilbert, a pioneer of the foundations of probability and game theory, and a contributor to the development of functional analysis, he was one of those instrumental to the extraordinary flowering of Polish mathematics before and after World War I. In particular, it was he who “discovered” the great Stefan Banach. Exhibiting his great integrity and wit, Steinhaus’s personal story of the turbulent times he survived – including two world wars and life postwar under the Soviet heel –

cannot but be of consuming interest. His recounting of the fearful years spent evading Nazi terror is especially moving. The steadfast honesty and natural dignity he maintained while pursuing a life of demanding scientific and intellectual enquiry in the face of encroaching calamity and chaos show him to be truly a mathematician for all seasons. The present work will be of great interest not only to mathematicians wanting to learn some of the details of the mathematical blossoming that occurred in Poland in the first half of the 20th century, but also to anyone wishing to read a first-hand account of the history of those unquiet times in Europe – and indeed world-wide – by someone of uncommon intelligence and forthrightness situated near an eye of the storm.
