

Richard Guy

Born: September 30, 1916 - March 9, 2020

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_K._Guy

By: Edward Chung

Richard Kenneth Guy was a British mathematician, born on September 30, 1916 in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, England. Growing up, his parents, Adeline Augusta Tanner and William Alexander Charles Guy, were both teachers, and while attending the Warwick School for Boys, found the curriculum uninteresting. However, he excelled in mathematics, and after reading Dickson's *History of the Theory of Numbers* at the age of 17, he claimed it was better than "the whole works of Shakespeare," solidifying his lifelong interest in mathematics.

He attended college Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, receiving his Bachelors in 1938 and his Masters in 1941. Afterwards, he decided to become a teacher and received a teaching diploma from the University of Birmingham. He met his future wife, Nancy Louise Thirian, through her brother, a fellow student at Gonville and Caius college, and married in December, 1940.

In 1942, World War II began, and Guy received an emergency commission in the Meteorological Branch of the Royal Air Force, as a meteorologist. After returning to England after the war, he went back to teaching, first at Stockport Grammar School, and in 1947, to Goldsmiths' College, where he taught mathematics.

In 1951, he moved to Singapore and taught at the University of Malaya until 1962. In 1960, Guy met the famous Hungarian mathematician, Paul Erdős. He shared many mathematical problems with Guy, and eventually collaborated together to write four papers.

Guy is well known for his work in number theory, geometry, recreational mathematics, combinatorics, and graph theory. He had published over 300 scholarly articles, 100 mathematical research papers, and 12 books throughout his lifetime. Guy passed away on March 9, 2020, at the age of 103.