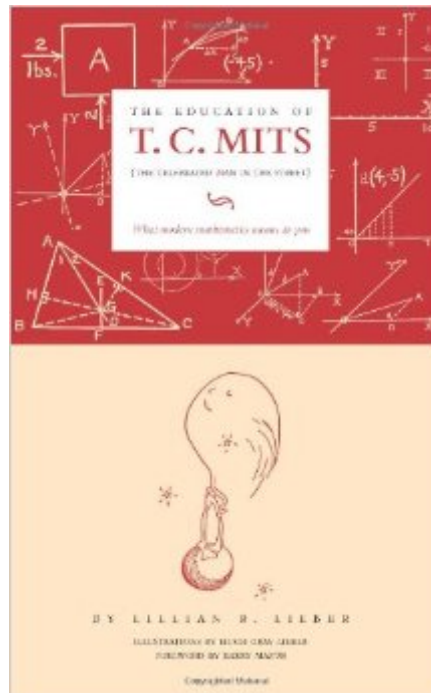


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# The Education Of T.C. Mits: What Modern Mathematics Means To You



## Synopsis

"A delightful book." "New York Times" I have studied with pleasure [this] new book [Beautiful examples] Illuminating. I am convinced that [Lieber's] original enterprise will get the recognition it so richly deserves." "Albert Einstein" The Liebers have written an ingenious, entertaining, and illuminating book." "Saturday Review of Literature" The book should be 'required reading' especially for non-mathematicians." "E.T. Bell, author of *The Development of Mathematics* First published in 1942, this whimsical exploration of how to think in a mathematical mood continues to delight math-lovers of all ages. Do you know that two times two is not always four; that the sum of the angles in a triangle does not always equal  $180^\circ$ ; that sometimes it is possible to draw two parallel lines through the same point? In *The Education of T. C. MITS*, Lillian Lieber opens the door to the wonder of mathematical thinking and its application to everyday life. Lieber uses simple language and fanciful illustrations drawn by her husband, Hugh, to present fundamental mathematical concepts with a deft touch. The new foreword by Harvard University mathematics professor Barry Mazur is a tribute to the Liebers' influence on generations of mathematicians. Lillian Lieber was the head of the Department of Mathematics at Long Island University. She wrote a series of lighthearted (and well-respected) math books in the 1940s, including *The Einstein Theory of Relativity*, *Infinity*, and *Mits, Wits & Logic*. Hugh Gray Lieber was the head of the Department of Fine Arts at Long Island University. He illustrated many books written by his wife Lillian. Barry Mazur Barry Mazur is a mathematician and is the Gerhard Gade University Professor at Harvard University. He is the author of *Imagining Numbers* (particularly the square root of minus fifteen). He has won numerous honors in his field, including the Veblen Prize, Cole Prize, Steele Prize, and Chauvenet Prize.

## Book Information

Paperback: 230 pages

Publisher: Paul Dry Books; Reprint edition (June 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1589880331

ISBN-13: 978-1589880337

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #568,159 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #516 in Books > Science & Math

> Mathematics > History #2323 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Essays & Correspondence > Essays #5363 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Mathematics

## Customer Reviews

Originally published in 1944, *The Education of T. C. Mits: What Modern Mathematics Means to You* is a unique, plain-terms introduction to the amazing world of mathematics, written for readers of all backgrounds. In higher mathematics, sometimes the most fundamental of precepts can be challenged: two times two is not always four; the sum of the angles in a triangle does not always equal 180 degrees, and two parallel lines can be drawn through the same point! The free-verse poetry format does not interfere with the straightforward message, sample problems, and mathematical explanations in the least. Simple black-and-white line drawings illustrate this amazing exploration of mathematical mysteries for "T. C. Mits", or "The Common Man in the Street". A joy to read, especially recommended for public library collections to stimulate human interest in math and science. Highly recommended. "There is one very essential difference / between the behavior of T. C. and / that of a scientist. / T. C. is apt to think that / if he is good at hunches sometimes, / he may rely on them always. / But the fact is that / EACH INDIVIDUAL HUNCH MUST BE / CHECKED AND DOUBLE-CHECKED!"

I love this book! I own a copy of this book from the original copyright date. It was my dad's (a mathematician) and he suggested I read it. The book was a dull yellow color with just the title on the spine. At first I had no interest. At some point, in high school, I picked it up and read it. It's a quick read, even for a slow reader. It teaches you to not make assumptions and follow up on your work. It also makes thoughtful connections between math, science, and philosophy in a humorous and light-hearted way. I recommend this book to all teachers (and students) of math and science.

First read this in the 1950's when it sparked my interest in science and math. Bought it recently (2007) and read it again for nostalgia, and ended up incorporating it in a class I teach that focuses on getting engineers to look at things a bit differently. A good gift for grandparents to give grandkids...

"The Education of T.C. Mits" is a great book. It can change your view of the world. It deals with philosophical mathematics and mathematical philosophy, but it's not just for the intelligent. It is meant for "T. C. Mits - The Common Man In The Street." This book is must-read for anyone, no matter their

interests.

I was writing a retrospective about my Dad when this book came to mind. We didn't have many books but scads of magazines. One book we always had around was this one. I read it at seven, ten, twelve and so on. Each time something new to learn. I've asked to find this out of print jewel for me.

Brilliant exposition of higher mathematics for the layman. It is to algebra what Flatland (Abbott) is to geometry!  
The Education of T.C. Mits: What modern mathematics means to you

This is not just a book about mathematics. It's a book that teaches the reader how to think in a scientific/mathematical manner. Every person in High School or College should read this book. It will change the way you look at the world and probably change your life!

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