

Contents

LIST OF EXTRACTS	ix
LIST OF PLATES	xi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xi
1. PATHS	1
The problem of the Königsberg bridges	1
Diagram-tracing puzzles	12
Mazes and labyrinths	16
2. CIRCUITS	21
The knight's tour	22
Kirkman and polyhedra	28
The Icosian Game	31
3. TREES	37
The first studies of trees	37
Counting unrooted trees	47
Counting labelled trees	51
4. CHEMICAL GRAPHS	55
Graphic formulae in chemistry	55
Isomerism	60
Clifford, Sylvester, and the term 'graph'	64
Enumeration, from Cayley to Pólya	67
5. EULER'S POLYHEDRAL FORMULA	74
The history of polyhedra	74
Planar graphs and maps	78
Generalizations of Euler's formula	83
6. THE FOUR-COLOUR PROBLEM— EARLY HISTORY	90
The origin of the four-colour problem	90
The 'proof'	94
Heawood and the five-colour theorem	105
7. COLOURING MAPS ON SURFACES	109
The chromatic number of a surface	109
Neighbouring regions	115
One-sided surfaces	124

8. IDEAS FROM ALGEBRA AND TOPOLOGY	131
The algebra of circuits	131
Planar graphs	141
Planarity and Whitney duality	148
9. THE FOUR-COLOUR PROBLEM—TO 1936	158
The first attempts to reformulate the problem	158
Reducibility	169
Birkhoff, Whitney, and chromatic polynomials	180
10. THE FACTORIZATION OF GRAPHS	187
Regular graphs and their factors	187
Petersen's theorem on trivalent graphs	195
An alternative view: correspondences	201
APPENDIX 1: Graph Theory since 1936	209
APPENDIX 2: Biographical Notes	213
APPENDIX 3: Bibliography: 1736–1936	223
INDEX OF NAMES	235
GENERAL INDEX	238