

David Hilbert



1862-1943

David Hilbert was born in Koenigsberg, East Prussia in 1862 and received his doctorate from his home town university in 1885. His knowledge of mathematics was broad and he excelled in most areas. His early work was in a field called the theory of algebraic invariants. In this subject his contributions equaled that of Eduard Study, a mathematician who, according to Hilbert, "knows only one field of mathematics." Next after looking over the work done by French mathematicians, Hilbert concentrated on theories involving algebraic and transfinite numbers.