

THE UNREAL LIFE

■ OF ■

OSCAR ZARISKI

Carol Parikh



ACADEMIC PRESS, INC.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers

Boston San Diego New York

London Sydney Tokyo Toronto

CONTENTS

PREFACE	<i>xi</i>	
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	<i>xiii</i>	
FOREWORD	A Foreword for Non-Mathematicians by David Mumford	<i>xv</i>
CHAPTER 1	That Darling Old Lady Kobrin and Chernigov 1899–1918	1
CHAPTER 2	Birds Whirling like Numbers Kiev 1918–1920	11
CHAPTER 3	Three Great Mathematicians Rome 1921–1926	17
CHAPTER 4	Reading Pushkin and Dante	29
CHAPTER 5	“Oscar, you are not one of us.”	35
CHAPTER 6	Walking with Lefschetz Baltimore 1927–1928	45

CHAPTER 7	A Voyage of Discovery 1928–1932	59
CHAPTER 8	“The Algebra Which Sheds Light on Geometry” 1932–1935	67
CHAPTER 9	A Citizen of the World of Mathematics 1935–1937	77
CHAPTER 10	The Resolution of Some Singularities	87
CHAPTER 11	A Land of Intellectual Cannibals 1939–1944	97
CHAPTER 12	“A Superb Audience of One . . . André Weil” São Paulo 1945	107
CHAPTER 13	Normal Points of a Variety Cambridge 1947	115
CHAPTER 14	The Pure Pleasure of It	123
CHAPTER 15	An Attack on the Theory of Linear Systems 1950–1956	135
CHAPTER 16	Tying Bells on Characteristic Zero 1957–1961	147
CHAPTER 17	A Feeling of Awe 1962–1974	163
CHAPTER 18	The Depth of His Attachment	175
APPENDIX A	A Discussion of Zariski’s Work	183
APPENDIX B	Bibliography of Oscar Zariski	247
INDEX OF NAMES		259