clarity of the exposition and the precision, which leaves no room for uncertainty. The style has sometimes been characterized as austere or severe. It may, occasionally be also somewhat elliptic. The ideas are presented in a most economical fashion and the author does expect the reader to be able to fill in the more obvious details. This permits him to present the leading ideas in an uncluttered way.

Finally, while the ultimate verdict on the work, like everything human, belongs to history, those of us, who were fortunate enough to have known Harold Davenport, cannot help remembering also the man. While much of what he was–cultured, articulate, logical–is indeed reflected in his work, not everything is. He was generous with his time and enjoyed (or at least seemed to enjoy) showing Cambridge to his guests. While, to judge by his students, his standards must have been very high, he was quite patient with the more common brand of mankind and made genuine efforts to make himself understood by the less sophisticated reader (see, e.g., his book "The Higher Arithmetic"). In fact, this reviewer can recall only one outburst of impatience (or indignation?) of Davenport: it was with mathematicians who claim results, but never publish their proofs, either because they don't have any, or in order to keep their methods as private property of a small group of close collaborators. No names were named.

The reviewer wants to take this opportunity to thank Professor D. J. Lewis for a very helpful letter concerning Davenport which confirmed many and completed some of the reviewer's own recollections.

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EMIL GROSSWALD

BULLETIN (New Series) OF THE
AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
Volume 1, Number 4, July 1979

0002-9904/79/0000-0313/$01.75

Automata-theoretic aspects of formal power series, by Arto Salomaa and Matti Soittola, Texts and Monographs in Computer Science, Springer-Verlag, New York, Heidelberg, Berlin, 1978, x + 178 pp., $16.50.

In the early sixties, stimulated by the discoveries of M. P. Schützenberger, a number of researchers at the University of Paris contributed to a new