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1003-A0-879 **W Thomas Archibald*** (tarchi@mit.edu), Dibner Institute, MIT E56-100, 38 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139. *John Charles Fields: His Work in Mathematics and Research Organization.*

This paper will present an outline of the life, mathematics, and scientific organizational activities of John Charles Fields (1863-1932). Fields is chiefly remembered as the founder of the Fields Medals, but the paper will go beyond this to concentrate on the origins of his interest in mathematical research and the formation of his ideas about what was mathematically important. Fields undertook undergraduate studies at Toronto. He came in contact with the research ideals of the continental European universities as a graduate student at Johns Hopkins. His later studies in Berlin with such luminaries as Schwarz, Frobenius and Hensel gave his own research a definite direction, and he published several papers. Fields is likewise remembered as a scientific organizer, important for the eventual institution of the medals. From the mathematical standpoint, his work organizing and preparing the Proceedings of the 1924 International Mathematical Congress was his most significant contribution. Fields was also a strong voice for the importance of research both within the University of Toronto and in Canada more generally. The creation of the medals was thus the conclusion of a long career in the promotion and execution of scientific research at the local, national, and international levels. (Received September 30, 2004)