

The Carus Mathematical Monographs

CALCULUS  
OF VARIATIONS



GILBERT AMES BLISS

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no. 1

THE  
CARUS MATHEMATICAL MONOGRAPHS

*Published by*  
THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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**T**HE CARUS MATHEMATICAL MONOGRAPHS are an expression of the desire of Mrs. Mary Hegeler Carus, and of her son Dr. Edward H. Carus, to contribute to the dissemination of mathematical knowledge by making accessible at nominal cost a series of expository presentations of the best thoughts and keenest researches in pure and applied mathematics. The publication of these monographs was made possible by a notable gift to the Mathematical Association of America by Mrs. Carus as sole trustee of the Edward C. Hegeler Trust Fund. The expositions of mathematical subjects which the monographs will contain are to be set forth in a manner comprehensible not only to teachers and students specializing in mathematics, but also to scientific workers in other fields, and especially to the wide circle of thoughtful people who, having a moderate acquaintance with elementary mathematics, wish to extend their knowledge without prolonged and critical study of the mathematical journals and treatises. The scope of this series includes also historical and biographical monographs.

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By

GILBERT AMES BLISS

*Professor of Mathematics, The University of Chicago*



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