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NEWS AND NOTICES

SEVENTY YEARS OF PROFESSOR JAN MAŘÍK

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November 12 is the birthday of one of the most prominent Czech mathematicians, Professor Jan Mařík. He was born in 1920 at Užhorod in Subcarpathian Ukraine, which was then part of Czechoslovakia. His father worked there temporarily in the civil service. In 1923 the family moved to Prague. After the final examination at the secondary school in 1939, J. Mařík was admitted to the Faculty of Electrical Engi-



neering, Czech Technical University. However, Czech institutions of higher education were soon closed by the Nazis, and Mařík had to change job several times, eventually being sent to forced labour ("Totaleinsatz") to a factory in Steyr (Austria). In April 1945 he fled illegally to Bohemia and immediately after the end of World War II started to study Mathematics and Physics at Charles University. After graduating from the University, J. Mařík was for two years Assistant Professor at the Czech Technical University, then he joined the Mathematical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences as a research student (Aspirant), and in 1953 became member of staff of the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University. He received the degrees of RNDr. in 1949, CSc. (Candidate of Science) in 1955 and DrSc. in 1960. He was appointed Associated Professor in 1955, Full Professor 1960.

The fall of 1966 he spent in Denmark as a visiting professor at Aarhus University. In 1969 he left Czechoslovakia with an official permission to stay one year at Michigan State University. He arrived at East Lansing with his wife and daughter in September 1969, and in October he was warned by the Czechoslovak Embassy that he would have to return to Czechoslovakia before end of November. (This was a consequence of the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and of the so called "normalization process".) Under the circumstances he chose to accept the tenure as Full Professor at MSU offered to him. He has been with MSU ever since, and in 1977 became the U.S. citizen.

During the period of 1957-1970, J. Mařík was Chief Editor of the Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal. With proverbial thoroughness he studied all submitted manuscripts; his deep analysis often resulted in new papers arising from the original ones by essential amendments and thorough revision. Since 1982, Mařík has been one of the two Managing Editors of the journal Real Analysis Exchange (RAE). Being affraid not to cause any difficulties to contributors from Czechoslovakia he used in this connection an assumed name of John Marshall. Only after the favourable recent developments in Czechoslovakia his true name has appeared in the Journal.

Prof. Mařík has lectured at a number of universities in the USA and Canada. Almost every year he has taken part in the Symposia of the group "Real Analysis"; reports on his lectures have been published in RAE. The richness of scientific interests of J. Mařík is remarkable and covers problems from algebra through topology to real analysis, the centre of his activity being naturally the last one of the domains mentioned. Even there the list of his publications includes items from mutually distant domains, e.g. differential equations, theory of measure and integral, and functional analysis. Lately he has systematically studied the derivatives of real functions and achieved a number of original results in the field.

A deep mark was left in the Czech mathematical community by Mařík's teaching activities from before 1969; these activities formed the basis for later successful research in real analysis, measure theory and theory of potential in Czechoslovakia. Prof. Mařík not only educated his students in Mathematics but, by his personal example, helped to form their character. His integrity and absolute honesity in relation to the others as well as to himself have been well known. Frequently these features of his character were manifested in situations which were not entirely free of possible conflicts or unpleasant consequences, and in which he was able to formulate and defend his opinion openly and regardless of complications he might have caused to himself.

Last but not least, let us mention that J. Mařík is an excellent dancer, good tennis player, and that he had invented his own bridge bidding system.

On behalf of his numerous friends and students, we extend to Jan Mařík our wishes of firm health, good humour and unceasing energy which he has till now retained in all situations and in admirable measure.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS OF PROFESSOR JAN MAŘÍK

(Notation: ČPM - Časopis pro pěstování matematiky, CSMJ - Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal, RAE - Real Analysis Exchange)

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