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EIGHTY YEARS OF PROFESSOR OTAKAR BORŮVKA

MICHAL GREGUŠ, Bratislava



Mathematicians at the Faculty of Science of Comenius University decided to devote this number of Acta Mathematica in honour of the 80th birthday of Professor RNDr. Otakar Borůvka, DrSc., the member of the Czechoslovak Academy and the honorary doctor of Comenius University.

Professor RNDr. O. Borůvka, DrSc. was one of the first well known mathematicians at the Czech Universities and Institutes of Technology who realized that mathematics in Slovakia after a release from beneath fascism and after a revival of the Czechoslovak Republic on the new socialist principles needs an unselfish help. He made up his mind to realize this help in the form of giving regular lectures and seminars for young people at the Comenius University who were interested in mathematics. He used to visit Bratislava for almost more than 10 years and he provided schooling for mathematical rising generation in algebra, geometry and in mathematical analysis first of all in the theory of the ordinary differential equations.

Professor O. Borůvka provided not only regular mathematical lectures but he also educated many doctors, candidates of science (PhD) and doctors of science (DrSc.) so that nowadays after more than 30 years we have ascertained that it was Professor O. Borůvka who established the mathematical school of differential equations in Slovakia and in a substantial way he assisted by building further scientific schools in algebra and geometry.

The aim of this short recollection is not to analyse the rich scientific and pedagogic life of Professor Borůvka but it must be said that he is an important scientist in the field of algebra, geometry and differential equations. He published a hundred of scientific papers and many monographs which were made generally known in the translations abroad. He is a personality of the international importance who set the fashion to a development of mathematical sciences in the socialist Czechoslovakia and to a large extent he influenced their growth.

He is up to the present an unassuming, modest and industrious person with an imperturbable optimism who is systematically working on the scientific problems. He is still educating and looking after the mathematical rising generation. He was and still is a personality who unifies the mathematical generations of the fraternal Czech and Slovak nations.