Karel Drábek

In memoriam Professor Karel Havlíček

IN MEMORIAM PROFESSOR KAREL HAVLÍČEK

Karel Drábek, Praha

On May 27, 1983, RNDr. Karel Havlíček, CSc., Professor of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, died in Prague shortly before reaching seventy years of age.

Karel Havlíček was born on September 4, 1913, in Prague in a family of a railway officer. After completing the secondary school in 1931 he entered the Faculty of

Science, Charles University, where he studied Mathematics and Physics. He graduated in 1937, and after having defended his dissertation *On Klein's mapping of line surfaces* he obtained his doctor's degree (RNDr) in 1939. For lack of teaching

jobs he became Research Assistent at Czech Technical University. When Czech universities were closed by the Nazi occupants, he took teaching jobs at various schools. During the occupation he remained in contact with his former teachers from the University, and immediately after the end of the World War II he joined Charles University first as Lecturer, then Reader (1951) and Professor (1967). As many other members of staff of the University he helped at other schools; the most important was his work at the School of Mechanical and Textile Engineering at Liberec (Northern Bohemia) during 1953–1956.

For an account of Professor Havlíček's scientific activities as well as the list of his research papers we refer the interested reader to the articles (both in Czech) by A. Švec (Časopis pro pěstování matematiky *98* (1973), pp. 327–329) and V. Mahel (Pokroky matematiky, fyziky a astronomie *XVIII* (1973), pp. 297–298).

The research as well as the teaching activity of K. Havlíček were closely connected with his participation in conferences and lecture tours. After two stays at Mathematical Research Center at Oberwolfach and a visiting professorship at Aachen (1969–1970) he founded a seminar of combinatorial geometry, which he led till his retirement; he helped in its work by valuable advice till his death. The work of this seminar has been closely connected with the research project "Incidence Structures" and led to a number of dissertations and theses.

The many-sided activity of Prof. Havlíček included the problems of mathematical education as well as popularization of science; only in the last ten years he delivered about fifty public lectures on Mathematics, mathematical education and history of Mathematics. The most significant result of his interest in these problems has been the book *The Ways of Modern Mathematics* (which appeared in 1976 in the second, revised and extended edition), written together with several co-authors.

All the life of Professor Karel Havlíček was devoted to mathematical research and education. He will be long remembered by all his friends, colleagues and students for his scientific results as well as for his personal qualities.

LIST OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS OF PROFESSOR K. HAVLÍČEK

A. Original papers

[1] O větách Pelcových (On Pelc's theorems). Časopis pro pěst. matem. a fyziky, *70* (1941), D6-D11.

[2] Rozvinutelné plochy v přímkové diferenciální geometrii (Developable surfaces in line differential geometry). Rozpravy II. tř. České akademie, 53 (1943), No 42, 24 p.

[3] Klein's representation of ruled surfaces. Spisy přírodovědecké fakulty KU, No 172 (1939 to 1946), 17–20.

[4] Contact des courbes et des hypersphères dans un espace euclidien à *n* dimensions. — Courbes sphériques. Časopis pro pěst. matem. a fyziky, *72* (1947), 137–146.

[5] Sur les surfaces enveloppes de sphères. Časopis pro pěst. matem. a fyziky, *74* (1949), 21–40.

[6] Surfaces réglées qui sont enveloppes de sphères. Czechoslovak Math. J., 1 (*76*) (1951), 187–197.

[7] Kanálové *W*-plochy (Canal *W*-surfaces). Časopis pro pěst. matem. *78* (1953), 347—357.

[8] Poznámka k přímkové geometrii rozvinutelných ploch (Note on line geometry of developable surfaces). Časopis pro pěst. matem., *81* (1956), 26—37.

[9] Příspěvek k projektivnímu významu derivování (Contribution to the projective meaning of derivative). Časopis pro pěst. matem. *81* (1956), 117.

[10] Přehled základních pojmů z geometrie zakřivených prostorů (Survey of fundamental notions of the geometry of curved spaces). Pokroky matematiky, fyziky a astronomie, *III* (1958), 639—659.

[11] Über eine Konfiguration der Punkte und Kegelschnitte in der projektiven Ebene. Wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift der Technischen Universität Dresden, *13* (1964), 725—726.

[12] Anamorfosa ve Štěpánského nomogramech s unárním polem (Anamorphosis in Štěpánský's nomograms with unary field). Acta Universitatis Carolinae, Mathematica et Physica, Praha 1968, No 2, 67—75.

[13] Zur Konstruktion einer endlichen Ebene. Časopis pro pěst. matem. *95* (1970), 71—75.

[14] Zur Geometrie der endlichen Ebene der Ordnung *n* = 4. (With J. Tietze) Czechoslovak Math. J. *21 (96)*, (1971), 157—164.

[15] Príspevok k teórii konečných projektívnych rovín (Contribution to the theory of finite projective planes) (With C. Palaj). Zborník vedeckých prác drevárskej fakulty Vysokej školy lesníckej a drevárskej vo Zvolene, 1971, 31—36.

[16] Satz von Desargues in der endlichen projektiven Ebene der Ordnung *n* = 4. Wissenschaftliche Haupttagung der Math. Gesellschaft der DDR, Dresden, 1972.

[17] Über die Verzweigung des Punktes durch einen Komplex der Transformationen (With K. Stach). Potsdamer Forschungen, Reihe B, Heft 3, Pädagogische Hochschule Potsdam 1974, 112 S.

[18] Konstruction der Punktkonfigurationen mittels endlicher Gruppen. Wissenschaftliche Haupttagung der Math. Gesellschaft der DDR, Hale 1974.

B. Books

[1] Úvod do projektivní geometrie kuželoseček (Introduction to projective theory of conical sections). SNTL, Praha 1956.

[2] Cesty moderní matematiky (The ways of modern mathematics). Malá moderní encyklopedie, No. 84, Horizont, Praha 1976.