Josef Král; Jaroslav Kurzweil; Ivan Netuka; Štefan Schwabik
In memoriam Professor Jan Mařík (1920–1994)

IN MEMORIAM PROFESSOR JAN MAŘÍK (1920–1994)

Josef Král, Jaroslav Kurzweil, Ivan Netuka, Štefan Schwabik, Praha

It was with deep regret that the Czech mathematical community accepted the sad news of the death of Jan Mařík, Professor of Charles University in Prague and the Michigan State University in East Lansing. The leading representative of the Czech post-war Mathematics, prominent scholar and excellent teacher, died in East Lansing, U.S.A., on January 6, 1994.

The deceased belonged to a generation severely afflicted by the period events in this part of Europe. His university studies were interrupted at its very beginning when the Nazi occupants closed the Czech institutions of higher education. He went through the "Totaleinsatz" (more or less forced labour for the German war industry) in Austria, and when he completed his studies after the liberation in 1945–48, the era of Communist totalitarianism started in Czechoslovakia. The life career of Professor Jan Mařík has been described in more detail in Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal 41(116) (1991), 180–183, where the reader can also find the list of his publications till 1990, which is actualized and completed at the end of this paper.

Jan Mařík was an exceptionally gifted mathematician. His scientific work includes papers from algebra, topology and mathematical analysis. Although he published also papers from functional analysis, potential theory and differential equations, his mathematical interest was focused on the theory of measure and integral and the theory of real functions. In all these domains he achieved remarkable and above all, highly original results.

His view of the political and social matters was unambigous. Given the situation in the country, he concentrated on his educational activities. Professor Mařík felt an extraordinarily strong need to share his mathematical knowledge and experience and to pass them to the younger generation. For him teaching was a vocation and he devoted himself to it with enthusiasm and selfsacrifice. He lectured, wrote lecture notes and, in particular, led the so called mathematical practical training. It was a special type of seminar for beginners where the students worked individually and Mařík kept personal contact with each of them. He gave much to his students and earned

credit for improving the level of university mathematical studies in Czechoslovakia, especially at Charles University.

Jan Mařík was Chief Editor of Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal in 1957–1970. In a spontaneous way he organized and directed the work of the Editorial Board and Office, searched for colaborators, but first of all did much of the chore himself. He refereed a great number of contributions. As soon as he recognized just a bit of a mathematical idea, he thought the problem over and gave the author detailed advice how to improve the manuscript. He devoted much time and effort to this activity helping numerous mathematicians literally anonymously since the name of the referee was never published, and of course without any material reward either. Just a few initiates did know about this work and its extent.

The nonsensical course of action of the Czechoslovak administration after 1969 caused that Jan Mařík did not come back to the country after a year's stay in the U.S.A. This was a severe loss for both Charles University and the Czech mathematical life, the consequences of which are still felt. Nonetheless, also during his years in the United States he had lively interest in the life in Czechoslovakia and maintained contacts with several friends. His concern for Czech and Slovak mathematics and mathematicians is corroborated by the fact that as one of the Chief Editors of the journal Real Analysis Exchange he used till 1989 an assumed name of John Marshall in order not to preclude Czech and Slovak authors from publishing in the journal.

His participation in the Conference on real analysis at Smolenice near Bratislava and the subsequent stay in Prague in 1991 can be considered a happy episode in his life. He met many friends and colleagues. He emanated good humour, optimism, energy. Unfortunately, this was his last visit home.

We knew Professor Jan Mařík as a man of integrity, an honest and just man with deep sense for truth. He was able to defend it even in situations when he was risking the disgrace of the powerful ones. We loved him for his friendly ways, fine humour and willingness to offer advice or help. For his exemplary correctness, his sense for the order of things and harmony of words and deeds. He had a deep and beautiful relation to Mathematics and he loved people in whom he felt the same. Not always are the mathematical and humane qualities going hand by hand so closely. Jan Mařík was an exceptional personality. As such we have perceived him while he was with us, as well as during the long time we missed him in Prague. Far from his home died our teacher, colleague and friend. With deep regret we defer to the work and to the humane message left to us by Jan Mařík.

COMPLETION OF THE LIST OF PUBLICATONS OF PROF. JAN MAŘÍK
(See Czech. Math. J. 41 (116), (1991), 180-183)

[41] Some aspects of products of derivatives (with A.M. Bruckner and C. E. Weil). American Mathematical Monthly 99 (1992), 134–145.

[42] Sums of powers of derivatives (with C. E. Weil). Proceedings of the AMS 112 (1991), 807–817.

[43] On a class of orthogonal series (with J. Georgiou). Analysis Mathematica 16 (1990), 11–25.

[44] A note on integration of rational functions. Mathematica Bohemica 116 (1991), 405-411.

[45] Integration of some very elementary functions. Mathematica Bohemica 118 (1993), 201–217.

[46] integrating factor. Mathematica Bohemica 119 (1994). To appear.

[47] The Hausdorff dimension of some special plane sets. Mathematica Bohemica. To appear.

[48] Extending Peano derivatives (with H. Fejzić and C. E. Weil). Mathematica Bohemica. To appear.