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Professor Milan Kolibiar (1922--1994)

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PROFESSOR MILAN KOLIBIAR (1922 — 1994)

Two years ago we celebrated his 70th birthday. Although already seriously ill, he radiated optimism. We hoped, together with him, he would recover and return back to his mathematics. Now we have to announce the sad news that Professor RNDr. Milan Kolibiar, DrSc., died on July 9, 1994.

Professor Milan Kolibiar was born on February 14, 1922 at Detrovská Huta, the district of Zvolen, Slovakia. He graduated from Comenius University in Bratislava in 1946 and joined the Department of Mathematics of the same University. Here he rose through the ranks of Assistant (1946–1955), Associate Professor (1955–1965), Professor (1965–1987), and Professor-Emeritus (since 1987). In 1964 he was appointed Head of the newly established Department of Algebra and Number Theory. He worked in this position till his retirement in 1987.

M. Kolibiar belonged to the first generation of Slovak mathematicians who had graduated from the University in Bratislava. In spite of all constraints, he started his scientific career, working in lattice theory. He was also interested in partially ordered sets, universal algebras, and in border fields between algebra and topology. In addition to many administrative duties, M. Kolibiar acted as editor in the journals *Mathematica Slovaca* and *Acta Mathematica Universitatis Comenianae*.

Professor Kolibiar was one of the formative personalities of the Department of Mathematics of Comenius University. He imparted through his teaching activities the precision and solidity of research as well the concern for good teaching and expositions. Perhaps the most impressive characteristic of Kolibiar's professional life had always been his great concern for, and encouragement of, his colleague mathematicians, especially of his younger colleagues and those starting their careers. Kolibiar was a supervisor of ten CSc. (=PhD) students, but his impact extended beyond his "official" students.

Since this is not the place to attempt to characterize all the manifold of Kolibiar's activities, we recommend to the more interested reader two papers published in Czechoslovak Math. J. **42(117)** (1992), 187–190, and in Math. Slovaca **42** (1992), 251–256. In both of them bibliographic data and a list of publications by M. Kolibiar can be found.

Milan Kolibiar was an exceptional personality. He was our teacher, colleague and friend. We deeply defer to the work and human message left by him to all of us.

Tibor Katrinák

A special issue of *Mathematica Slovaca* devoted to the memory of Prof. M. Kolibiar will be published in the end of the next year. Therefore, we encourage all his colleagues, students and friends to contribute their articles to this issue.