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Academician Štefan Schwarz (1914--1996)

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Two years ago we have celebrated the 80th birthday of an outstanding Slovak mathematician, Academician Štefan Schwarz, the world-wide recognized specialist in theory of semigroups and number theory. We now have to announce that Academician Štefan Schwarz suddenly died on December 6, 1996.

Professor Štefan Schwarz was born on May 18, 1914 at Nové Mesto nad Váhom. After his university studies at Charles University in Prague in 1936 (he was a student of Prof. K. Petr (1868 - 1950)), he became Assistant Professor at the Mathematical Institute of the Faculty of Science, Charles University, and later in 1939, due to turbulent pre-war time he moved back to Slovakia and he became a member of the staff of the newly established Slovak Technical University in Martin and later in Bratislava.

In 1944, he was deported and imprisoned in a German concentration camp, from where he was liberated in 1945. Both his sisters died in such camps.

In 1946, he was appointed Associate Professor at the Faculty of Science in Bratislava (thesis "Theory of semigroups" written in 1943) and since 1947 he became Full Professor at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava. Until 1979 he was Head of Mathematical Department of the Electrical Engineering Faculty, Slovak Technical University, until 1982 a member of the staff, and until 1985 an external collaborator of this department. He was elected a corresponding member (in 1952) and a member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (in 1960). In 1953, he also became one of the 12 founding members of the new established Slovak Academy of Sciences. In the years 1965 – 1970, he was President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Since 1966 until 1988 he was Director of the Mathematical Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, in 1994, he was awarded Doctor h.c. of technical sciences. Until the last day of his life he was an active fellow-worker of the Mathematical Institute ...

Professor Š. Schwarz belonged to the zero generation of Slovak mathematicians (together with Prof. Jur Hronec (1881 – 1959)), and he was a supervisor of practically the whole first Slovak mathematical generation, and a teacher of thousands Slovak technicians. (Among the undergraduates students, there was a popular slogan "If you don't understand the lectures of Prof. Schwarz, go away and try to study something else than technical subject.") His scientific seminars and lectures for "adult mathematicians" were very famous in Bratislava.

His scientific interests have been devoted to semigroup theory (he was one of the founders of this topic), theory of finite fields, number theory, stochastic and Boolean matrices, and his important and very deep scientific results have been published in 6 monographs and more than 100 articles. He submitted his last paper this year.

Professor Štefan Schwarz was the founder of Mathematica Slovaca and its long-year Editor-in-Chief, and he was one of the most important personalities and organizers of the scientific life in Slovakia. Since his student times he was a member of the Czechoslovak Union of Mathematicians and Physicists, and later he became its Honorary member. He was not only outstanding mathematician but also a person interested in public life.

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Since this is not a place to give a complete characterization of the whole activity of Academician Štefan Schwarz, we recommend to a more interested reader the article (with the complete publication list (until 1994) Jakubík, J.—Kolibiar, M.: *Eighty years of Professor Štefan Schwarz*, Math. Slovaca **44** (1994), i–x).

Prof. Š. Schwarz was an outstanding mathematician, and our teacher, colleague, friend and father. We deeply defer to the work and the human message left by him to all of us.

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