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Prof. RNDr. Ladislav Mišík, DRSC. 10.05.1921--18.06.2001

PROF. RNDR. LADISLAV MIŠÍK, DRSC.
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At the end of April, the Slovak Academy of Sciences organized the fifth jollity dedicated to outstanding personalities of the Academy and of the Slovak scholar community. Among celebrators, there was also a long-period scientific collaborator of the Institute of Mathematics and its former Vice-Director, Prof. RNDr. Ladislav Mišík, DrSc., who at the beginning of May have lived his eighties and who belongs to the first generation of the Slovak mathematicians. Prof. Mišík, together with his important mathematical results, was already 40–50 years ago in the Europe, in the imaginary Europe to that we are now crowding so strongly. Unfortunately, the following lines are only an obituary to a noble man.

Prof. Mišík was born on May 10, 1921 in Žilina within the family of a secondary-school professor of mathematics. The family background inspired him to study of mathematics and physics at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Masaryk University in Brno (1938–39) and at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Slovak University in Bratislava (1939–43). His first station was a high-school in Bratislava (Sept. 1941). Since Jan. 1, 1941, he was appointed at the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Bratislava, and in the period Oct. 1, 1945 – Sept. 30, 1962 he was at Mathematical Department of the Slovak Technical University, Bratislava and since Oct. 1, 1962 he arrived into nowadays Institute of Mathematics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava. Till his retirement, 1987, he was the Vice-Director of the Institute and he also deeply influenced the scientific orientation of the Institute, because Prof. Š. Schwarz was a long-year external Head of the Institute. Since 1987, Prof. Mišík was a scientific collaborate-consultant of the Institute till March 31, 1994. (In 1987, the author gained the position at the Institute just in the wake of him, what is considered a great honour for the author.)

The first scientific degree, RNDr., he gained at Charles University in Prague, 1948, in 1962 he became Ass. Prof., in 1964 he defended CSc. (=PhD), and DrSc. in 1967. Because he was not enough "good" in the recent times, he became a university professor only in new times at Comenius University, Bratislava, 1991. Academician Š. Schwarz recommended him regularly for a Corresponding-Member of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, which was regularly eliminated.

His scientific interests were dedicated to theory of real functions, functional analysis, and measure theory and integration. His first article was written jointly with prof. J. Novák: *On L-spaces of continuous functions* (in Slovak), and this article was the first article in a new-established mathematical journal *Matematicko-fyzikálny sborník*, 1951 (the ancestor of nowadays Mathematica Slovaca and Acta Physica Slovaca). He was author of 40 scientific articles, 9 monographs and textbooks.[1]

Prof. Mišík belonged to the first generation of Slovak mathematicians, which left a deep traces in the development of the Slovak mathematics, and he addressed the whole mathematical word with his scientific results. He was an outstanding teacher, in despite of the

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[1]The complete list of his publications together with a detailed survey of his scientific activity was published in [Math. Slovaca **41** (1991), 333–336], on the occasion of his 70th birthday by B. Riečan.

religious-political reasons he have to left the university position and to pass into the seclusion of the Academy. The whole generations of the Slovak technical students have learn from the outstanding textbook *Mathematics I, II* by I. Kluvánek, L. Mišík, M. Švec, whose the first edition was in 1959 and 1961 and which have four, resp. three re-editions. The high quality of the textbooks can be confirmed by the fact that after 1968 (the end of Dubček period) when Prof. Kluvánek stayed in Australia, their textbooks was not forbidden in the socialistic Czechoslovakia. The last monograph *Functional Analysis* (in Slovak) was published in 1989. As a particular interest can be recalled that he was also a coauthor of *Slovak-French and French-Slovak Technical Vocabulary* and of the *Survey of the High-School Mathematics* (in Slovak).

In spite of his activity at the Technical University, he was active also at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Comenius University, where he significantly helped at the foundations of its many mathematical departments. He started to teach modern trends of mathematics, e.g. set theory. He was a founder of the seminar of measure theory, at which many of young mathematicians exchanged their ideas, and which now are a decorations of the Slovak and world mathematics: e.g. Prof. T. Neubrunn, Prof. I. Kluvánek, Prof. T. Šalát, Prof. B. Riečan and many others.

Since 1971, he was a member of the founding commission of the International Mathematical Center of S. Banach, Warsaw. As a reviewer of PhD. and DrSc. theses, he was known as a very severe expert and his reports were very detailed, and novices have to bring him whole heaps of the quoted papers which also were exhibited in all details. If he gave a positive report, then the novice was sure that his defence will be successful. Late Prof. Z. Frolík, a world expert for topology from Prague, said at the defence of one DrSc: Thus it is again confirmed an old truth that Prof. Mišík was the only reviewer who read the paper in deep details.

In 1978, he actively grounded the External Branch of the Institute of Mathematics in Košice.

In spite of his ascetic life, he also goes in for a more secular activity, e.g., he loved to play bowling and he played even the Second Bowling League. Prof. T. Šalát is very often recollecting a funny story, when during the lunch in a restaurant, he observed a waitress who moved very elastically. When he gave her a compliment to her elasticity, he was asking her to a reason. The waitress answered that she is playing bowling. Prof. Šalát was asking yet whether she did not know Mišík. She was glad to hear that and she answered that Mišík is a first-class bowling player of their bowling team. Our nice waitress never heard that Mišík is an outstanding "player" of mathematics, too.

Late Prof. Š. Schwarz was often recalling that Prof. Mišík was not once excusing from the meeting of Collegium of Mathematics saying that in serious matter he has to leave the meeting. When he was asking to the reason, he answered that he has to play the bowling match, and everybody was struck dumb hearing that.

The grape cultivation was another his favourite activity. The last time he brought a small demijohn of his own wine to the celebration of his 75th birthday at the Institute. He began to be seriously ill, the Prize of Matica Slovenská, 1995, was accepted by his son, also a mathematicians. The last four years he was immovable, whole dependent on the care of his wife and three children. I am expressing them our deep thanks and admiration.

Prof. L. Mišík passed away on June 18, 2001.

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