

Karel Vacek

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The Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the College of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University

Twenty five years will have elapsed this year since the separation of mathematics and physics from the frame of the College of Natural Sciences of Charles University and since the foundation of an independent College of Mathematics and Physics. Besides training specialists in physics and mathematics, and later secondary school teachers of mathematics and physics as well, a full-scale scientific work in physics, mathematics, earth sciences and astrophysics has been developed at the new working place. Some dry statistical data may help to provide at least a rough idea on the extent of these activities; during the 25 years elapsed the workers of the College have published 5100 original scientific works in both Czechoslovak and foreign periodicals; the College of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University has become coordinator of 3 national scientific tasks in the field of basic research, 471 Candidate theses and 31 Doctorate theses have been defended at the College. Apart from this, the College has taken a remarkable share in the cooperation with Czechoslovak industrial enterprises as a part of its non-educational economic activities, which, in the last year, amounted to the value of 7.5 million Cz. Crowns. Three scientific institutes have been established in the frame of the College – the Physical Institute of Charles University, the Mathematical Institute of Charles University and the Nuclear Center. The content of scientific work has also grown. From the original few scientific fields of mathematics and physics the list of physical and mathematical disciplines has been enriched by new perspective ones, such as theoretical cybernetics, mathematical logic, numerical mathematics, computational technology, mathematical statistics, operational analysis, mathematical physics, biophysics, chemical physics, solid state physics, nuclear physics, physical electronics, vacuum physics, cosmic physics. This development of scientific physical and mathematical fields is also reflected in the structure of the fields in physics and mathematics in which students of the College of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University are trained for their future professions; at the present time the College provides instruction in the physics of marginal fields (astronomy and astrophysics, geophysics, meteorology and climatology, mathematical physics), in solid state physics, physical electronics, biophysics and chemical physics, nuclear physics, optics, mathematical analysis, probability and mathematical statistics, theory of systems, approximate and numerical methods, theoretical cybernetics and mathematical informatics. To make it possible for the College to continue in fulfilling its ambitious tasks both in scientific and in pedagogical work, the construction of new premises for the college has been started in the recent years in Prague, Troja by the decision

of the Ministry of Education, which, together with the College of Nuclear and Technical Engineering of the Czech Higher Institute of Technology represents, in its conception, undoubtedly the greatest physical and mathematical scientific research and pedagogical center in the agglomeration of the Country's capital Prague.

It is naturally not the objective of this article to give a detailed evaluation of the activities of the College of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University which have elapsed over the last 25 years, this aim has been fulfilled by a number of original articles in our special mathematical and physical reviews). Its importance is only in drawing the attention of the public to the period of 25 years of the College of Mathematics and Physics, which, at the present, represents doubtlessly one of the most important institutions for scientific and pedagogical work in physics and mathematics of the whole Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

PROFESSOR K. VACEK, DR. SC.
Dean of the College of
Mathematics and Physics