Forgotten mathematician Henry Lowig (1904–1995)

[Two letters]

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The University of Tasmania welcomes the publication of *The Forgotten Mathematician: Henry Lowig (1904-1995)* by Associate Professor Martina Bečvářová - the fiftieth volume in the History of Mathematics series.

Dr Lowig was a long-standing member of staff in the Mathematic Department at the University of Tasmania and gained the first Doctor of Science degree in mathematics awarded by the University for his research and publication record. It is fitting that his life and work are acknowledged by this publication and that we are reminded of the importance of the often undervalued discipline of mathematics as a foundation discipline underlying all others in science and technology.

Dr Lowig brought an international dimension to his teaching and to the University of Tasmania at a time when universities in Australia were dominated by scholars from the British university tradition. He is remembered well by his former students, many of whom have themselves achieved prominence as university teachers and researchers.

One of their most abiding memories is of lengthy arguments between Dr Lowig and his colleague Dr Carl Moppert about mathematics topics in regular Friday afternoon tea sessions for students and staff organised by the Professor of Mathematics, E. J. G. Pitman. So enthusiastic did these discourses become, that the pair often reverted to the German language, before being drawn back to include the whole group!

I am sure that this work will be well received by mathematicians and historians throughout the world and is a fine addition to the body of publications on the history of mathematics.

Professor David Rich
Provost

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

March 8, 2012

Associate Professor Martina Bečvářová
Author
The Forgotten Mathematician: Henry Lowig (1904-1995)
c/o Czech Technical University
Prague, Czech Republic

Dear Associate Professor Bečvářová:

The University of Alberta was privileged to have Professor Henry Lowig as a faculty member 1957–1972. Throughout his adult life, and even during the trying times he had to endure as a consquence of the Second World War, Professor Lowig's passion and commitment to mathematics did not waver. Perhaps it is because of this passion that his work continues to resonate, even in contemporary times.

During his fifteen years at the University of Alberta, Professor Lowig enlightened an entire generation of mathematicians with his profound insight into contemporary trends in functional analysis, algebra and lattice theory. His contributions have resounded within the international mathematics community and helped to build the reputation of both our Mathematics Department and our University on the international stage.

While we have long appreciated Dr. Lowig's contributions, we are pleased that *The Forgotten Mathematician: Henry Lowig (1904-1995)* brings fresh information and original perspectives on his life and work to a new audience. We are honoured to have the opportunity to participate in the publication of the English version of the book through this endorsement, and thus to contribute to this volume in celebration of his life, his accomplishments, and his dedication to our university family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Taylor,
Dean, Faculty of Science

Dr. Arturo Pianzola,
Chair, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences