

Life and work of Vojtěch Jarník

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Preface

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PREFACE

The idea of the present book goes back to the preparatory period of the 8th International Conference on Number Theory which I organized in September 1987 in Teplýšovice. The very first session of the Conference was devoted to V. Jarník on the occasion of the ninetieth anniversary of his birthday, which he unfortunately had not lived to. Besides Czech participants (D. Preiss and myself) further contributions concerning the work of V. Jarník were delivered by P. Gruber and M. Dodson. Modified versions of their talks form the basis of this book the publication of which has been much delayed and seemed almost impossible after 1989 due to changes in the editorial strategies.

My thanks are due to the Grant Agency of Charles University which has sponsored (grant GAUK 147, 1995–1997) the publication of the book, and to Prometheus Publishing House which took care of its publication.

The book is amended by several—unfortunately very few—pictures, an introductory biographical article by I. Netuka, which was delivered at the commemorative meeting on the occasion of V. Jarník's centenary, a study by J. Veselý and a paper by J. Nešetřil and B. Korte concerning Jarník's pioneering contribution to the optimization theory. Further, it includes a number of personal recollections of Jarník's personality and work by prominent mathematicians.

The last part of the book consists of some publications of V. Jarník which I tried to choose from all fields of his activities. A special note should be made of the pioneering paper on Hausdorff measure and diophantine approximations, which its author had never seen published. I brought a copy of it in 1971 from Moscow and its transcript has been provided care of J. Veselý.

It is my pleasant duty to express my thanks to the authors of the individual papers as well as to J. Jarník, Š. Schwabik, J. Veselý and L. Zajíček for their considerable help, to J. Vlášková from the Prometheus Publishing House and to K. Horák from the Mathematical Institute of the Academy of the Czech Republic for editing the text and preparing its final version.

I believe that this book will offer the reader a good account of the life and work of Vojtěch Jarník.

Editor

