Arnold Walfisz

Arnold Walfisz (1892-1962)

A biographical note

Professor Arnold Walfisz was born in Warsaw on the 2nd of July, 1892, where later, in 1909, he took his "Abitur-examination" from the 6th State "Gymnasium". He studied mathematics on the German Universities of Munich, Berlin, Heidelberg and Göttingen (breaking off in 1914-1918). In Göttingen, at the end of 1921, he presented his doctor-thesis "Über die summatorischen Funktionen einiger Dirichletscher Reihen". In the years 1922-1927, Dr Walfisz used to live in Wiesbaden. Then he returned to Warsaw to take up a position in the insurance company "Europa". In the years 1920-1936, he published 46 scientific papers (some of them jointly with E. Landau, J. E. Littlewood, V. Jarník, S. Chowla, G. Szegö) and became a known researcher in the field of number theory. In 1935, A. Walfisz together with S. Lubelski founded Acta Arithmetica. After the war, the Polish Academy of Sciences took over the publication of this periodical and asked Walfisz to join the Editorial Committee. In 1936, Walfisz was appointed as a professor at the Mathematical Institute and in the University of Tbilissi. He remained at this Institute until his death, i.e. for almost 26 years. In the years 1940-1943, he was there head of the Department of Theoretical Mathematics and from 1948 on — head of the Department of Algebra and Geometry. He published in Tbilissi further 51 works, among them a couple of monographs and text-books in various branches of number theory. A number of Georgian specialists in number theory owe their education to him. Beside his scientific activity at the Mathematical Institute, Professor A. Walfisz was holding lectures: at the University of Tbilissi in 1936-1937, 1942-1947 and at the Pedagogical Institute of Tbilissi in 1947-1953. He was also a member of the Editorial Committee of "The Journal of the A. M. Ramadse Mathematical Institute of the Georgian SSR".