

The present special issue of *Fundamenta Mathematicae* is dedicated to the memory of our friend and teacher Professor Wiesław Szlenk who died on July 26, 1995.

Wiesław was a versatile mathematician. He was a mathematical grandson of Stefan Banach; his Ph.D. thesis (1963), directed by Stanisław Mazur, and several subsequent papers were devoted to Banach spaces. At the end of the sixties, inspired by Ya. Sinai, he moved his interest to dynamical systems. Wiesław's best known results in this area concern invariant measures for smooth maps and ergodic theory of iterations of maps of the interval and Riemann sphere. In later years he was also actively interested in the applications of dynamical systems to biology and medicine.

Wiesław was a leading figure in the formation of the dynamical systems research group at Warsaw University and for many years the *spiritus movens* of a dynamical systems seminar. He organized a memorable conference on dynamical systems held in Warsaw in 1977, where he succeeded in bringing together the leading experts from both sides of the then existing Iron Curtain.

Wiesław was involved in mathematical education in Poland. His textbook on probability theory has been used for many years by high-school students throughout the country. He served as chairman of the Mathematical Olympiad in Poland.

Wiesław went through all academic ranks at Warsaw University. He held several administrative posts; he played a crucial role in developing a new research profile of the Institute of Applied Mathematics and Mechanics. In 1979–82 he served as director of the Mathematical Institute at the Agricultural University in Warsaw and inspired mathematical research there.

Wiesław also held long-term visiting positions in Copenhagen, Mexico and in Barcelona, where he died.

We remember Wiesław as a man of great personal generosity and energy. He loved climbing mountains and exploring caves.

Wiesław Szlenk will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by his colleagues and friends in the mathematical community throughout the world.

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