



W. Stark

MARCELI STARK

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Marceli Stark was born in Lwów where he completed his secondary education in 1926 and the same year began his studies in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the Jan Kazimierz University (Lwów University). He graduated from that University in 1933, obtaining a master's degree. While still a student, Marceli Stark was appointed as an assistant at the Chair of Mathematics directed by Stefan Banach. He held this position during 1929–1935 and 1939–1941. Because of his political views and connections with the illegal Communist party, he lost his job in 1935 and was arrested in 1936, soon being released for lack of the evidence. However, he remained jobless until the beginning of the Second World War in 1939.

After the German aggression against the Soviet Union and the occupation of Lwów by German forces in 1941, Marceli Stark and his family became subject to racial persecution. His parents were murdered by the Nazis in 1942, and in the same year he escaped from Lwów to Warsaw, where he hid under an assumed name. However, he was arrested by the Gestapo in January 1943 and placed in the Warsaw Ghetto. Arrested again during the Ghetto uprising, he was transported to the concentration camps of Majdanek, Płaszów, Ravensbrück and Sachsenhausen. After the liberation in April 1945, he returned to Poland in July of 1945.

From 1946 to 1950, Marceli Stark was an associate at Wrocław University.

In 1949 he was appointed as an associate at the State Mathematical Institute in Wrocław, where he managed the Institute editorial work. (After the creation of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1951, the Institute changed its name to the Mathematical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences.)

In 1951 he moved to Warsaw to the main office of the Institute. In 1954 he was promoted to the position of docent.

During the period 1950–1967, Marceli Stark held many responsible positions. He was head of the publishing department of the Polish Mathematical Society, Secretary of the Committee for Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences, deputy director of the Institute and adviser to

PWN (Polish Scientific Publishers). However, most of his heart and energy went into the editorial work of Polish mathematical journals and books. He was an active member of many editorial boards, such as *Acta Arithmetica* (secretary), *Wiadomości Matematyczne* (editor), *Studia Mathematica* (secretary), *Matematyka Stosowana* (editor), *Dissertationes Mathematicae*, and the series of advanced textbooks *Biblioteka Matematyczna* (Chairman).

At least as important as his formal activities were his other contributions to the mathematical community. Having no family, he put all his time, energy and knowledge at the service of Polish mathematics. He was irreplaceable as a source of information of any kind, and he encouraged many young people to write monographs, textbooks and articles.

Marceli Stark did very much for *Studia Mathematica*. He became secretary of the Editorial Board soon after the war, and supervised the publication of all postwar volumes (beginning with Volume 10 published in 1948) until his death in 1974. The present state of our journal is due in great part to the contributions of Marceli Stark.
