

ACADEMICIAN RADU MIRON AT SEVENTY FIVE

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Academician Radu Miron, whom we dedicate this special volume, is a fully accomplished product of the mathematical school related to the Mathematical Seminar "Al. Myller" with the University of Iași. About this school, and particularly concerning its Geometry branch, Miron Nicolescu stated in an article published in *Gazeta Matematică* (1952) that it represents the "most homogeneous research school in Romanian Mathematics". He certainly had in mind Al. Myller, O. Mayer, Gh. Vranceanu, M. Haimovici, Ilie Popa, Gh. Gheorghiev, I. Creangă and A. Haimovici. After 1950, have joined this school R. Miron, D. Papuc, V. Cruceanu, I. Vaisman and many younger mathematicians.

Radu Miron became a student with the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the University "Al.I.Cuza" of Iași in the Fall of 1948, and ever since we have been together with other fellows of our generation, like D. Petrovanu, D. Papuc, C. Borș, P. Caraman, N. Gheorghiu, Gh. Bantaș - active members of the mathematical community in Iași, associated with the Mathematical Seminar "Al. Myller". In this venerable institution, we have joined our professors whose names were mentioned above and grew up to become researchers in Mathematics and occupy various positions in the academic community.

During the 1950's, the situation in regard to the mathematical literature was rather precarious. Towards the end of the decade, it has improved somewhat, due to the access we've obtained to the Western literature and publications that were prohibited starting the year 1948. Our information was relying on old publications and on the publications in Russian. These publications were usually of high mathematical standards, but insufficient for grasping a full picture of the contemporary mathematical research.

Our orientation, at that time, in mathematical research has been determined by our personal preferences, within the scientific atmosphere maintained by our professors at the "Al. Myller" Seminar.

Towards the end of the 1950's, the mathematical community of Iași was cultivating such domains of research as Theoretical Mechanics, Differential (and related) Equations, Algebra and, of course, Geometry. Without any doubt, Radu Miron has become the leader of the researchers in Geometry, continuing in this way the tradition that has placed Iași in a honorable position within the international mathematical community. Moreover, Radu

Miron has found inspiration in Mechanics, which guided him in studying several geometric structures related to this field of knowledge. This feature has been present in the greatest part of Miron's activity, even though he did not neglect subjects like *Myller's configurations* - closer to the preoccupations of the old school of Geometry from Iași.

After half a century of research work in Geometry, the achievements of Radu Miron are well-known in the international mathematical community. Not being a specialist in Geometry, I will leave the task of describing them to more qualified colleagues. But I cannot help but mention the fact that besides an impressive number of articles, memoirs, monographs and other publications, he has authored or co-authored a large number of textbooks addressing the college students, the mathematics teachers in high-school or even their students.

Radu Miron has been the supervisor of Ph.D. students who later became faculty members in various universities of Romania, Canada, Japan, Hungary and other countries with solid mathematical traditions. He has been present in many international meetings, presenting his results. I would mention here the meeting organized in Berkeley, dedicated to S. S. Chern - considered one of the most important specialist in Geometry of the 20th Century. In the volume dedicated to Radu Miron on his 70th Birthday, S. S. Chern is among the contributors.

An important aspect of the activity of Radu Miron consists in the fact that now, at the beginning of the 21st Century, the School of Geometry in Iași is very active in research and counts an impressive number of members with recognition in the international mathematical community. Many of them are or have been close associates of Radu Miron. They constitute the guarantee for the further flourishing of the School of Geometry in Iași.

We shall conclude, addressing our warmest congratulation for past achievements, and best wishes for the future of the School of Geometry Radu Miron has illustrated brilliantly. To him, and his family, the same sincere wishes for success and prosperity.