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Academician Vladimír Kořínek octogenarian

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NEWS and NOTICES

ACADEMICIAN VLADIMÍR KOŘÍNEK OCTOGENARIAN

KAREL DRBOHLAV, Praha

Academician VLADIMÍR KOŘÍNEK whose name is inseparably connected with the development of Czechoslovak algebra, reached eighty years of age on 18 April, 1979.

The major part of the life-work of Academician Vladimír Kořínek coincides with his scientific, educational and organizing work at Charles University, Prague. His habilitation as associated professor took place in 1931, he was appointed extraordinary professor in 1935 and full professor in 1940. He remained member of staff of the University till his retirement in 1970, his work being interrupted only in the years of Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. During his years at the University, Professor Kořínek educated a number of students, to whom he imparted not only deep knowledge and true attachment to mathematics but also the ethical principles of scientific work. For his merits he was distinguished several times: he was awarded the silver medal "For special merit for the development of Charles University" in 1960, "Memorial Charles University Medal" in 1968 and First Degree Medal on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics.

Five years ago, a paper was published by the author [Pokroky matematiky, fyziky a astronomie *XIX*, 4 (1974), 185–187] which dealt in more detail with the life, character, scientific work and the activity in our scientific institutions of Academician V. Kořínek. Therefore, the present commemorative note is limited to some remarks concerning his work as a university teacher.

In my mind I go back to the days when I myself was studying at the University and then starting my teaching there. I remember the lectures and seminars of Professor Kořínek. He truly enjoyed teaching and always lectured with great devotion. He delivered his lectures with arresting enthusiasm which aroused the attention and activity even of those students who otherwise inclined to indifference and indolence. He was a source of unfailing energy and activity which captivated everybody present. He was anxious to make the subject understandable for each student. Professor Kořínek was always ready to react on an apparently most insignificant and minor question or request. He willingly continued thorough and straightforward explanations of the point in question till he was convinced that the student understands

Academician VLADIMÍR KOŘÍNEK

every detail. Professor Kořínek always considered his post of a university teacher as an obligation and made every effort to fulfil all his tasks in the best way possible. He often reflected upon his work and liked to confront his ideas and opinions with those of his friends and colleagues. He approached every problem earnestly and seriously, being an example for his neighbourhood also in this direction. He was so deeply connected with the scientific way of thinking that it pervaded even the practical aspects of his life. He demanded honesty from his students, loved order and hated superficiality and negligence at any work.

After years have passed, we know from our own experience how many most various problems are met in the job of a university teacher. Therefore we are able to appreciate the justice and truthfulness of Academician Kořínek's opinions, viewpoints and deeds which together formed his personality as a teacher. Now when we celebrate the 80th anniversary of birth day of Academician Kořínek, all of us who have had the opportunity to be near him for many years, realize and appreciate how often we – conciously or not – have built our work on the foundations laid by Professor Kořínek and including all that he lived through, that he created and that he achieved.

On behalf of all who commemorate the 80th anniversary of birthday of Academician Vladimír Kořínek, of the whole Czechoslovak mathematical community, of all his students and friends, we wish Academician Kořínek many years of health and content, many years in which he will enjoy the fruits of the tireless and painstaking work of his whole lifetime.