ADAM BIELECKI – A BIOGRAPHY

Adam Bielecki was born on Ferbruary 13, 1910, in Borysław near Lwów. Two years later his family moved to Cracow and this ancient Polish city with its unique cultural atmosphere and "genius loci" has been shaping Adam's personality since then. He received here his early education, graduating from the Hoene-Wroński High School in 1928 and then he was studying mathematics at the Jagellonian University, where he received his M.A. in 1931. In the same year he joined Polish Mathematical Society whose member he has been ever since that time. Also his first research paper [1] was published in the same year. Adam was awarded his Ph.D. from the Jagellonian University in 1935 upon the presentation of the Ph.D. Thesis [2]. From 1936 to 1939 Adam held an instructorship at the Chair of Theoretical Physics of the Jagellonian University. The Second World War and Nazi occupation of Poland put a break to Adam's teaching and research. In November 1939 some two hundred academic teachers of the Jagellonian University, Adam among them, were arrested and deported to concentration camps Sachsenhausen and Dachau. In 1940 most of them (Adam, too) were released in connection with protests and anger this revolting "Sonderaktion Krakau" had aroused among international scienti fic community. Upon his return to Cracow Adam was employed as a part-time teacher in a primary vocational school but his main activities were unofficial teaching of mathematics at the underground Jagellonian University and participation in seminars organized illegally by mathematicians living then in Cracow.

For the first two years after the war Adam was employed at the newly created Technical University in Cracow and in 1947 he followed the invitation of Mieczysław Biernacki who was organizing the Mathematics Department of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) in Lublin. His association with UMCS continued beyond the time of his retirement in 1980. He still teaches there on a part-time basis.

His activities during his stay in Lublin were not limited to teaching and research. He also held various administrative positions such as the dean of faculty, chairman of Mathematics Department, the vicerector of the university, a member of numerous committees on university and governmental level. He was the editor of Annales Universitatis Mariae Curie-Skłodowska, sectio A, and a member of the editorial boards of several other journals.

However, his most valuable services rendered to the UMCS and its Mathematics Department are connected with the critical period just after the untimely death of M. Biernacki in 1950 when Adam was left as the only full professor of mathematics at the UMCS. This gap could be filled thanks to his efforts as a tutor and a referee in a relatively short time by helping both Biernacki's and his own students in their academic career (B. and J. Krzyż, Z. Lewandowski, K. Radziszewski) and by inviting to Lublin mathematicians from other centers (T. Leżański).

Adam was also responsible for establishing and organizing the computer science department at UMCS. He was a supervisior of 11 Ph.D. theses. Among his Ph.D. students were professors: C. Kluczny, K. Radziszewski, J. Kisyński, Barbara Krzyż, J. Błaż, T. Dłotko, K. Goebel.

Adam's academic activities were not confined to the UMCS alone. For 14 years (1954–1968) he was also a professor at the Mathematical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences and for 6 year (1972–1978) an employee at Institute of Educational Studies.

He was also active in establishing mathematical institutes at some newly founded schools such as Silesian University in Katowice and Lublin Engineering College, presently Technical University Lublin.

For his achievements and excellence in teaching, research and administration Adam was awarded with many medals. orders and special prizes by central and regional authorities. It is our feeling that the image of a mathematician cannot be built on the basis of the list of his achievements and publications alone. Adam's search for clarity, his deep mathematical culture and an ability to find out analogies and essential generalizations were very helpful to those who had an opportunity to work with him and especially to many Ph.D. students whose theses were referred by him.

Adam's interests were not restricted to mathematics only. He is a skillfull piano player and in his Cracow days he published two volumes of poetry. In conversation Adam's interlocutors were often surprised by his broad knowledge of literature, arts and philosophy.

Adam is at present married to Jolanta Bielecka and has three daugthers: Małgorzata, Zofia and Zuzanna, the first two by his late wife Sława.

(Prepared by K. Goebel and J. Krzyż).

SCIENTIFIC WORK OF ADAM BIELECKI

The main object of scienti fic interests of Adam Bielecki was the theory of differential equations and their generalizations, in particular the paratingent equations, equations with deviated argument, functional-differential equations and various problems in non-linear partial differential equations of hyperbolic type. Some papers in this area are connected with the well-known topological method due to T. Ważewski. However, the most interesting results of Adam Bielecki in this field are applications of the exponential norm technique – a method introduced by him in [17], [18]. This method showed to be so convenient and useful that it became a standard tool in the theory of differential equations. For details see the articles by C. Corduneanu and M. Kwapisz in this issue. The research papers in this field fill up more than a half of the list of publications. Some ten papers are devoted to the complex analysis. In a series of papers written jointly with Z. Lewandowski, the authors were dealing with modular and domain subordination and their interrelations.

A few papers are concerned with real analysis and deal with simplified proofs of various classical results.

The remaining papers are devoted to geometry. It is worthwhile to mention that Adam Bielecki was able to remove some redundant axioms from the classical system of axioms of elementary geometry due to Hilbert and has also studied their independence.

Other papers in geometry deal with convex bodies, Finsler spaces and other topics. The interested reader can find out more detailed information from the bibliography.

The papers in this issue of the journal were submitted by Professor Adam Bielecki's students, friends and colleagues, in response to a solicitation of the editors.

The authors dedicate their papers to Adam Bielecki on the occasion of his 75-th birthday and 50-th anniversary of his doctorate.