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FERENC SCHIPP IS SIXTY

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Ferenc Schipp was born in Somberek, a small village in the south central part of Hungary, on June 4. 1939. After finishing his elementary education in his home village, he went to high school in the nearby town of Mohács, finishing in 1957. He continued his studies at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest, graduating in 1962. His dissertation (on Walsh–Fourier series of continuous functions) for the university doctor's degree was completed in 1965. In 1969 he earned the candidate of mathematical sciences degree from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA). In his dissertation he summarized his results on uniform and almost everywhere convergence, and strong summability of Walsh–Fourier series. Six years later, in 1975, Ferenc Schipp earned his doctor of mathematical sciences degree from the MTA. One of the main ideas in the work for his doctorate was the employment of methods of martingale theory for solution of problems in harmonic analysis. Through this approach several areas of the theory of Fourier series, such as fast Fourier transform, the famous Carleson theorem etc., were unified by his potent and powerful point of view.

Since graduation he has been on the faculty of ELTE as lecturer (1962–1965), assistant professor (1965–1970), associate professor (1970–1976), and was elevated to full professor in 1976. Professor Schipp has served the university and the mathematical community in several positions. He was vice dean of the Faculty of Sciences of ELTE during the period 1977–1982. Since 1984 he has been head of the Department of Numerical Analysis. During the period 1988–1993 he acted as head of Institute of Informatics. In addition to all these positions he has been head of the Department of Mathematics at Janus Pannonius University (JPTE) in Pécs since 1984, and a consultant at the Computer and Automation Research Institute of MTA (SZTAKI). He served 15 years as secretary of the Mathematical Committee of the MTA. He has been a member of the Editorial Boards of several international journals and member or chair of the organizing committees of many international conferences. His research accomplishments and activity in mathematical pedagogy have been recognized by

several prizes, including the Mathematical Prize of the MTA in 1978, the Prize of the MTA in 1990, and the Szentgyörgyi Prize of the Government of Hungary in 1996.

Professor Schipp is an internationally respected representative of the Hungarian school of Fourier series and real analysis, whose foundations go back to the beginning of the twentieth century. He continues the illustrious tradition of research began by Gy. Alexits and K. Tandori in the fields of expansions with respect to product systems, and strong approximation and almost everywhere convergence of Fourier series. His research has mainly been done in harmonic analysis, especially in dyadic analysis. A number of fundamental results in this area are due to him or to the research group founded and directed by him. A comprehensive monograph, *Walsh Series: An Introduction to Dyadic Harmonic Analysis* (1990, Adam Hilger and Akadémiai Kiadó, Bristol, New York, Budapest), was written as a result of an American-Hungarian collaboration. The American collaborator was professor W.R. Wade (University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA), and the leader of the Hungarian side was professor Schipp. This monograph became a widely, internationally accepted reference book of its field.

Professor Schipp's scientific activity has had a profound international impact which is demonstrated by the great number of references to his works, and the fact that he has been invited to speak at many international conferences. Professor Schipp has also held several guest and visiting appointments at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville), the Banach Center (Warszawa), the Mittag–Leffler Institute (Stockholm), Moscow State University, the University of Cairo, the Muslim University (Aligarh, India), the University of Caracas, and the Friedrich Schiller Universität (Jena). He is in daily contact with leading experts of his research field in various countries including Japan, Russia, Poland, Germany and the USA. He is receptive to new ideas, has outstanding problem solving skills, and a unique, original point of view of mathematics. Recently, he started doing research in wavelet theory, which has been one of the most intensively investigated area of harmonic analysis in the last decade. As a result, he published a monograph, *Transforms on Normed Fields* (1995, Leaflets in Mathematics, JPTE, Pécs), jointly with professor Wade. He has intensively worked on applications of harmonic analysis with professor J. Bokor (head of System and Control Laboratory of SZTAKI).

Finding and helping talented students has always been one of his main goals. More than 20 young scientists have started their careers and have written their dissertations under his supervision. He has written many textbooks. With his former students he built up an internationally acknowledged school in his research field. Due to his reputation several grants were awarded to his department making it possible for young colleagues to gain international experience and to take part in important foreign conferences. The most fruitful cooperation was with professor Wade and his colleagues at the University of Tennessee, which was supported by MTA-NSF grants in three consecutive terms. He has played an active role in the TEMPUS project involving ELTE, JPTE and the Universität und Gesamthochschule (Paderborn, Germany).

Those who have met professor Schipp would agree that it is needless to say anything about his personal qualities as an educator, colleague, and friend. This issue of Mathematica Pannonica, with many dedicated papers from friends working in different areas of mathematics, stands as an evidence of that.