

## PREFACE

On July 21–25, 2003, the *Władysław Orlicz Centenary Conference and Function Spaces VII* was held in Poznań under the honorary patronage of Aleksander Kwaśniewski, President of the Republic of Poland.

The Conference was organized to celebrate the centenary of birth of Professor Władysław Orlicz's, one of the most prominent Polish mathematicians of the 20th century. Before World War II, he was a member of the famous Polish School of Functional Analysis founded by Stefan Banach and Hugo Steinhaus in Lvov. After the War, he established the Poznań School of Mathematics and made important contributions to various domains of functional analysis, including unconditional convergence, orthogonal series, function spaces now bearing his name, orthogonal systems, differential equations, vector valued analysis, summability theory and polynomial operators.

The chief organizer of the event was the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of Adam Mickiewicz University. Co-organizers included the Committee for Mathematical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), International Stefan Banach Center, Institute of Mathematics of PAN, Institute of Mathematics of Poznań Technical University, and Polish Mathematical Society. The media sponsors were Polish Public TV Channel 3 and Radio 88.4 FM.

The atmosphere and success of any academic event are reflected both in the invited plenary addresses and in research announcements. The former are contained in these *Proceedings*, which open with a short biography of Władysław Orlicz penned by his close associates. The plenary addresses are concerned with various branches of mathematical analysis and its applications, in particular, function theory and functional analysis. These testify to the great impact the work and ideas of Władysław Orlicz had on the development of mathematics. His output found surprising applications in seemingly distant branches of mathematics such as probability theory, differential equations and measure theory. The second volume of the *Proceedings* gives the research announcements of conference participants.

Financial support was generously offered and assistance in kind provided by: the Ministry of National Education and Sports, LOT Polish Airlines, Novotel Poznań Centrum, Microsoft Corporation, Alma S.A., Alma Internet S.A., PZU Życie S.A., GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals S.A., Poznańska Energetyka Ciepła S.A., Impresja Wydawnictwa Elektroniczne S.A., Polkomtel S.A., Bank Zachodni WBK S.A., Radio 88.4 FM, ACM

Mari Car, Audio Visual Center, Arpa – Jerzy Gurawski. To all these companies and institutions I would like to express heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Organizing Committee.

The Conference was attended by over 150 mathematicians from four continents. The core of the program consisted of 22 plenary addresses delivered by invited specialists. The selection of plenary speakers was made by the Program Committee on which sat Zbigniew Ciesielski (Chairman), Lech Drewnowski (Vice Chairman), William B. Johnson, Francisco L. Hernandez, Joram Lindenstrauss, Nigel Kalton, Julian Musielak, Gilles Pisier, Aleksander Pełczyński and Peter Ulyanov. On behalf of the Organizing Committee I would like to warmly thank the members of the Program Committee for their involvement that considerably contributed to the high academic level of the Conference.

The afternoon sessions were filled by over 60 research announcements presented in seven sections. On the first day of the Conference, the afternoon session was preceded by the solemn act of unveiling a commemorative plaque in honour of Władysław Orlicz in the hall of the Mathematics and Computer Science Building. The plaque was unveiled by Krystyna Łybacka, Minister of National Education and Sports, and representatives of provincial and municipal authorities as well as academics.

The authorities of the Wielkopolska Province, the City of Poznań and Adam Mickiewicz University, appreciating the rank and significance of the Conference, greeted its participants with exceptional hospitality by inviting them to formal banquets in the former imperial palace, historic City Hall and the foyer of the University's Main Auditorium. A rich program of social functions and entertainment complementing the Conference included attending a concert held in the Parish Church of Poznań featuring an organ and trumpet, which was greeted with applause, visiting historic gems of architecture and museums in Poznań's vicinity, enjoying a picnic in the park surrounding Będlewo Palace, where the Conference Center of the International Stefan Banach Center is housed.

Conference participants turned out in great number for the modest ceremony of planting a larch to commemorate the centenary of Władysław Orlicz's birth. The tree was planted in front of the Mathematics and Computer Science Building with the help of several professors 'sleeves rolled up': Joram Lindenstrauss, Joe Diestel, Nigel Kalton, Zbigniew Ciesielski, Aleksander Pełczyński and Lech Maligranda.

The organizers presented each participant with a carefully edited compact disc containing the film *Spaces*, a collection of about 200 photographs of Władysław Orlicz's life and work, his biography, an extensive discussion of his academic output and a full list of his publications and doctoral dissertations written under his supervision. The disc also gave a comprehensive list of conferences devoted to Władysław Orlicz, which had been held so far, and a directory of lectures bearing his name. It also included short notes on the Scottish Book and mathematical problems jotted down by Władysław Orlicz, on the Jan Kazimierz University in Lvov, Poznań University, as well as on life in Lvov and Poznań between the world wars. After delivering his lecture, each plenary speaker received a commemorative medal issued on the occasion of the centenary of Władysław Orlicz's birth.

The Conference attracted considerable attention from the media. The Poznań press carried a few stories and the local channel of public television (TVP3) twice asked mem-

bers of the Program and Organizing Committees to appear in current news and general-interest broadcasts.

Considering the course of the Conference, opinions of its participants and, in particular, its academic program, one can venture the opinion that the Conference met the expectations of both organizers and participants as to its academic level and quality of scholarly exchange.

A lasting result of the Conference no doubt will be these *Proceedings*, which we are delighted to offer all readers interested in mathematics.

*Zbigniew Palka*  
Chairman,  
Organizing Committee