

PREFACE

The volume originates from the *Conference on Operator Theory and its Applications* held in Jurata, Poland, at the end of March 2010. The conference marked the completion of the EU project *Operator Theory Methods for Differential Equations* (TODEQ), realized at IM PAN during 2006–2010. The project has tremendously contributed to the development of operator theory in Poland through mutual visits of Polish operator theorists and reknowned mathematicians from abroad. This way, through cross-fertilization of various domains around operator theory, a lasting and exciting cooperation has been initiated that continues till the present time.

The volume had been planned to be published in 2012–2013. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, the publication has been substantially delayed, while at the same time several papers written later made their way into the book. Thus the link to Jurata's conference should not be taken very formally. However, despite a substantial delay, the contents of the volume will still be of genuine interest to specialists in functional analysis, and also to young mathematicians just starting their careers. Unfortunately, the area of operator theory, especially its abstract aspects, is not as popular and attractive now as even twenty years ago. Thus the volume could make a small contribution to counteracting that unhealthy and rather unnatural trend.

The volume touches a variety of important topics from operator theory that are sometimes interconnected but at other times are at a distance from each other. Thus providing an eclectic point of view, the volume illustrates the richness and wide range of the subject, which originated, in particular, from Banach's school, whose name is attached to the volume series.

The editor of this volume, Professor Jaroslav Zemánek, passed away on 18th February 2017, and the volume is to appear posthumously. It will be a modest contribution towards commemorating his outstanding mathematical achievements, his devotion to science, and his truly high moral standards.

Yuri Tomilov