This volume of "Studia Mathematica" is dedicated to the distinguished Polish mathematician Prof. Aleksander Pełczyński on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Aleksander Pełczyński was born on July 2, 1932 in Tarnopol, a town about a hundred kilometers east of Lwów. He studied mathematics at Warsaw University from 1950 till 1955, and received a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1958 for his thesis "Isomorphic properties of Banach spaces connected with weak unconditional convergence of series" written under the supervision of Stanisław Mazur. From 1955 till 1967 he taught at Warsaw University. From 1967 till his retirement in 2002 he worked at the Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

His work has been greatly appreciated by the mathematical community. He was twice invited to speak at International Mathematical Congresses (sectional talk in Moscow, 1966, and plenary talk in Warsaw, 1983). He was also invited to speak at the Second Congress of Soviet Mathematicians in Leningrad, 1962, at the Annual Meeting of the American Mathematical Society in St. Louis, 1976, and at the Annual Meeting of the German Mathematical Society in Berlin, 1990.

He has been an editor of "Studia Mathematica" since 1967.

A Conference on Functional Analysis in honour of Aleksander Pełczyński was held at the Będlewo Conference Center from September 22 till September 29, 2002. About 80 mathematicians participated in the conference. They delivered 15 invited plenary lectures and 28 talks.

Invitation to contribute papers to this volume was extended to all mathematicians invited to the Conference. The papers received were refereed according to the standard "Studia" procedure.