

Aleksander Pełczyński (1932–2012)

We announce with deep sorrow that Aleksander Pełczyński (Olek) passed away in Wrocław on December 20, 2012. Olek was a distinguished mathematician, a prominent member of the Polish school of Functional Analysis, and a good friend of ours, too.

Aleksander Pełczyński was born on July 2, 1932, in Tarnopol, then in Poland. He completed his secondary education in Gdańsk in 1950. As a winner of the first Polish Mathematical Olympiad, Olek enrolled without entrance examinations at the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Warsaw. He completed his studies in 1955. He finished his PhD studies in 1958 at the Mathematical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IMPAN) under the supervision of Stanisław Mazur. In 1963 Olek obtained his habilitation at the University of Warsaw. He worked there until 1967, when he moved to IMPAN, where he worked until his retirement in 2002, having a part time position until the end of his life.

Aleksander Pełczyński was the author or co-author of nearly 150 mathematical publications with over 40 co-authors. His influence on mathematical research also resulted from his extensive personal contacts with many a mathematician. Olek's personality made such contacts very natural, since he generously shared his mathematical questions and conjectures with others.

His main research interests were centered in Functional Analysis, especially in various areas of Banach space theory whose development he influenced greatly. His role in shaping that theory cannot be overestimated.

Aleksander Pełczyński was awarded an associate professorship in 1969 and full professorship in 1974. He was elected a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1976 and a full member thereof in 1989. He was also elected a full member of the Warsaw Scientific Society and of the Polish Academy of Learning.

He held various administrative positions at IMPAN, including those of a deputy director and head of the Functional Analysis Section. His Functional Analysis seminar was meeting at IMPAN for over 40 years. Olek attracted many young promising mathematicians. Eight of them obtained their degrees under his guidance.

Aleksander Pełczyński's work has been greatly appreciated by the mathematical community. He was invited to speak at two International Congresses of Mathematicians (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 was awarded four honorary doctorates (Brussels, Jena, Kent State, and Poznań).

Many of the important papers of Aleksander Pełczyński were published in *Studia Mathematica*. He was a member of our Editorial Board since 1967, and for some time served as the managing editor.

Editorial Board of Studia Mathematica