

IN MEMORIAM:  
Prof. Dr. **Janez Ušan**  
(1931 - 2006)

Professor Janez Ušan, one of the editors of Novi Sad Journal of Mathematics, was born 1931 in Vršac (Vojvodina, Serbia). He graduated in mathematics at the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), returned home and started his professional activity as a mathematics teacher in Vršac's high school. Later he moved to a college, and then to the Faculty of Technology in Zrenjanin. In 1971 he earned a Ph.D. in mathematics at Belgrade University. In the late seventies he moved to Novi Sad, acting, until retirement, as a university professor at the Faculty of Agriculture, then at the Faculty of Sciences.

Janez Ušan published several university textbooks, three monographs and many research papers - more than 80. He was a referee of Zentralblatt Math, and a supervisor of two Ph.D. theses.

Janez Ušan was a genuine scientist. He enjoyed researching as if it was not only his job, but also his passionate hobby. He did not travel much, still everywhere he had colleagues, co-authors, friends. He had permanent scientific and friendly relations with mathematicians from all parts of the former Yugoslavia: Macedonia, Slovenia, Croatia... He was also known in Italy, Russia, Hungary, Poland, Moldova...

Professor Ušan was a known specialist in the field of  $n$ -ary structures. The main themes around which his research revolved were  $n$ -ary quasigroups and related structures (including  $n$ -ary groups), functional equations and  $n$ -ary relations<sup>1</sup>. Ušan's results are cited in numerous articles and books; his generalization of the well-known *Four quasigroups theorem* is known as *Ušan's theorem*.

As a teacher, Professor Ušan stand on the position that the mathematical subjects and ideas, no matter how difficult they are, could be explained with precision to all students, even to those who never studied mathematics as a major subject. He was a great fan of innovations in teaching process, those which could facilitate understanding, shorten long procedures and make the proofs more elegant. His textbooks, where one could find numerous innovations, are his testimony on this field.

Janez Ušan was a modest person, devoted to his family; enjoying his research, he did not ask for more. Usually he did not accept invitations for plenary lectures abroad, saying that the results talk by themselves.

He was working fast, with a passion, mostly by night, coming in the afternoon to his office and sharing with us, his colleagues, new results, fresh ideas. He was supporting us in our work, discussing our problems, suggesting solutions.

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<sup>1</sup>More about his work will be said in a special article of this journal.

The retirement did not change much his life. He continued to work as fast as ever, always with full scientific curiosity and creativity. “*There is much more of this...*” he used to say.

This positive and creative energy which Janez Ušan used to spread will be missed; memories will remain.

*Miloš Kurilić  
Branimir Šešelja*