Karel Kozel; Jiří Neustupa
Sixtieth anniversary of birthday of Professor Jan Polášek

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR JAN POLÁŠEK

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Professor RNDr. Jan Polášek, DrSc., was born on 23 September 1926 in Brno. He attended secondary school in Brno and after the World War II studied Mathematics and Physics at Masaryk University in Brno. After a year as Assistent Professor at Brno Technical University he obtained his RNDr. (Doctor of Natural Science)

degree, and in 1950, together with M. Zlámal and F. Šik, was offered the research student (aspirant) scholarship by Academician E. Čech. He worked under the supervision of Prof. M. Hampl in Applied Mathematics. This period ended in 1956 when he already was working with the Institute of Thermotechnics in Prague (later renamed the Research Institute for Machine Construction). He joined the group of Dr. Špaček who were studying mathematical methods in hydromechanics. In 1962, J. Polášek together with L. Špaček and M. Růžička were awarded the Klement

Gottwald State Prize for developing original mathematical methods of design of two-dimensial cascades.

In 1964 J. Polášek was appointed Associated Professor of Mathematics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, where he had already lectured as Visiting Professor. In 1968 he received his DrSc. (Doctor of Science) degree on the basis of his thesis *Theory of potential flow through cascades*. In 1969 J. Polášek came to the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Czech Technical University, and in 1970 was appointed Head of the Department of Mathematics I. In 1975 the Department was reorganized to Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, but J. Polášek has kept the office of Head of the Department till now. In 1976 he was appointed Full Professor. Among distinctions granted to Prof. J. Polášek we should mention the honorary title "Meritorious Teacher" (1982), the Prize of the Minister of Education for a set of works on numerical solution of the equations of the transonic flow *through cascades* (1983, together with K. Kozel and M. Vavřincová), etc.

It has always been Professor Polášek's principle that Mathematics should and must become a substantial part of the theoretical training of an engineer, and that it is not sufficient to prepare the students in accordance with the present needs of the industry but that it is necessary to take into account the expectable future demands. On the other hand, he has required that the students of Mathematics be directed to applications, especially in technical sciences. Professor J. Polášek has substantially contributed to the modernization of mathematical training of students of mechanical engineering. He has always promoted the education in numerical mathematics, programming and computer science, and helped to establish new specializations Applied Mechanics (at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering) and Mathematical Engineering (at the Nuclear and Physics Engineering Faculty).

Professor Polášek is a specialist in mathematical methods of hydromechanics acknowledged all over the world. Numerous researchers who were his students are now successfully working in Czechoslovak industry, research and education. The most valuable feature of his work is that he has always tried to use mathematical methods for solving important particular problems, and has influenced his colleagues and students in the same direction. Today, the methods of Prof. Polášek and his students are especially useful e.g. for the construction of compressors and turbines.

Professor J. Polášek is author or co-author of 85 papers and 102 research reports. He has often represented Czechoslovak science in foreign countries (for example, he is member of the committee for applications of mathematical analysis of GAMM).

All those who have met Professor J. Polášek — as colleagues, friends or students — highly appreciate his honesty, frankness and kindness. He is always doing his best to create favourable working conditions to all his colleagues, including the presentation of their results in Czechoslovakia and abroad.

On the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of his birthday, we congratulate Professor J. Polášek and wish him many further successes in research, personal happiness, and firm health.