Karel Drbohlav; Ladislav Procházka
Seventieth birthday of Professor Vladimír Kořínek

NEWS AND NOTICES

SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR VLADIMÍR KOŘÍNEK

KAREL DRBOHLAV and LADISLAV PROCHÁZKA, Praha

VLADIMÍR KOŘÍNEK, member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, doctor of physical and mathematical sciences, ordinary professor of mathematics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Charles University, will be seventy on April 18, 1969. Let us take this opportunity to recall in a few words what are the qualities we particularly value in his personality and for which he remains a great example to us.

The vast life's work of Prof. Kořínek is the fruit of a tireless activity of a scholar with a wide range of interests whose all creative capabilities have always served science, the training of young generation and, in general, the progress in his country. Professor Kořínek is an outstanding Czechoslovak mathematician, a leading representative of our modern algebra and in this respect a world-known authority. His achievements, particularly those attained by him in the theory of simple algebras, in the theory of groups and in that of lattices, are mostly cited in standard text-books by distinguished experts in these subjects (A. A. Albert, N. Jacobson, A. G. Kuroš, G. Birkhoff) and moreover, a number of well-known mathematicians exploit them in their papers (O. Ore, C. Hopkins, O. N. Golovin, R. Baer, A. Ch. Livšic and others). For example, the study of the isomorphism of direct decompositions of groups will for ever be associated with Kořínek's name and his achievements in this field rank among the most often cited. It is especially the theorem stating that when the center of the group G satisfies the minimal condition for subgroups, then each two finite direct decompositions of the group G possess central isomorphic refinements. His most appreciated papers on the theory of lattices are concerned with very subtle examinations bearing, on the one hand, on Zassenhaus refinements of generally defined normal chains in non-modular lattices and, on the other hand, on Jordan-Hölder theorem in lattices; the results achieved in this respect show e.g. the significance of the conditions of semimodularity in lattices. Considering the publication date of these papers and the problems which were dealt with at that time, we ascertain at first sight that as a very scientist Professor Kořínek has always given attention to the latest and the most modern currents in algebra.

The creative scientific work of Professor Kořínek cannot be separated from his activity of University teacher. His teaching activity is preponderantly connected with
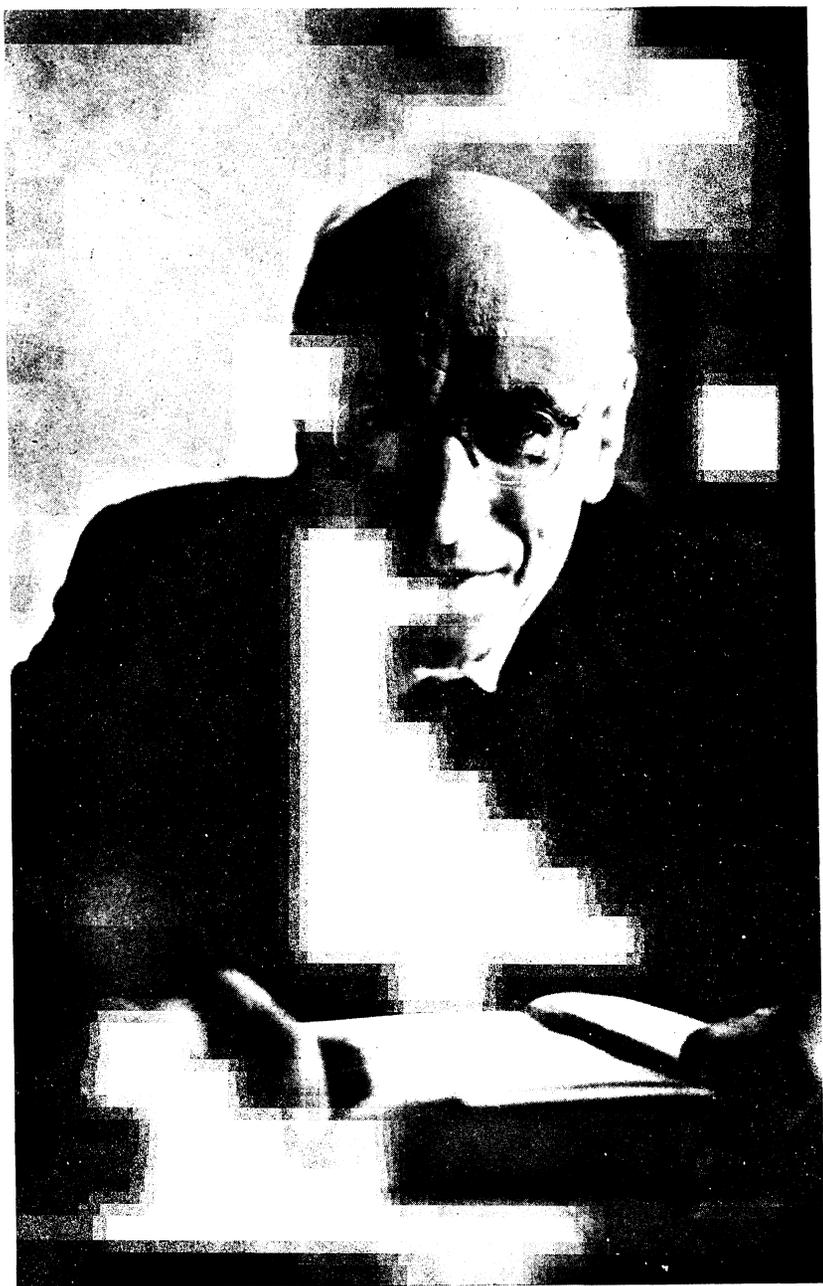
Professor VLADIMÍR KOŘÍNEK

the Charles University where he became Docent in 1931 and where he has been active as Professor since 1935. For more than thirty years passed from his appointment, a great number of young people interested in mathematics have attended his lectures and seminars and many of them have been enraptured by algebra in the same way as their teacher. A particularly important part in this respect has been played by Kořínek's algebraic seminar "for advanced students" attended by people (mostly graduates) interested in algebra from all Prague and which has a long years' tradition. Here the latest results published in journals are reported on, interesting problems are formulated, solutions for them are sought and new original papers originate. Professor Kořínek has many disciples; some of them continue the work of their teacher and have achieved remarkable results in algebra. Moreover, there is a number of those who work in other fields of mathematics but who are indebted to Professor Kořínek for having made themselves acquainted with the method of scientific work in his seminars and for having written their first papers; they all keep considering themselves as his disciples. When speaking about the pedagogical activity of Professor Kořínek we must not omit his text-book of algebra which had a great merit to become a basis for algebraic education of mathematics students at the University.

In addition to Professor Kořínek's successful scientific and teaching activity we must remember the work he has done in numerous academic and non-academic functions, notably his activity in learned societies such as the Royal Czech Society of Sciences, the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Czechoslovak National Research Council and finally the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences the member of which he has been since its foundation in 1952. For decades, Professor Kořínek has served as officer in the Association of the Czechoslovak Mathematicians and Physicists. He was its first vice-chairman at the time when the centenary of its foundation was celebrated. For his meritory work he was awarded the Order of Labour on that occasion. In the period 1953—55 he headed the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics as its Dean. In all functions Professor Kořínek has held he has enjoyed a great authority thanks to his moral qualities, to his energy and steadiness and to his personal courage.

On behalf of the Czech mathematical community we wish Professor Kořínek to live many years in good health and to attain many further achievements in his work he loves so much.

SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR OTAKAR BORŮVKA

Miloš Ráb, Brno

On May 10, 1969, Otakar Borůvka, member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, professor of mathematics at the Science Faculty of the J. E. Purkyně University, will be seventy.