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Professor BLAGOJ S. POPOV's 85th Anniversary

A mathematical conference: "85 YEARS OF PROFESSOR BLAGOJ POPOV LIFE" in honor of Professor Blagoj Popov, was organized by the Institute of Mathematics and Institute of Informatics at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (<http://www.pmf.ukim.edu.mk>), Ss. Cyril and Methodius University - Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. The conference took place in September 4-7, 2008, at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University Congress Center - Ohrid, on the shores of the Ohrid lake, with about 60 participants from Macedonia and countries as Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, USA. See details at

[http://www.institutzamatematika.com/index.php/Mathematical
_Conference:_85_YEARS_OF_PROFESSOR_BLAGOJ_POPOV_LIFE.](http://www.institutzamatematika.com/index.php/Mathematical_Conference:_85_YEARS_OF_PROFESSOR_BLAGOJ_POPOV_LIFE)

Academician Dr. Blagoj S. Popov is born on 17 January 1923, in the town Kochani, Macedonia. He graduated the secondary school in the town of Štip, and in 1940 enrolled as a student in the Technical Department of the Electro-Engineering Division of the Belgrade University. During the Second World War, the University in Belgrade was closed, and in 1942 Blagoj Popov together with other Macedonian students in Mathematics, had to continue his studies on the same speciality in the Department of Physics and Mathematics in Sofia University - Bulgaria. Again, he had to break them in 1944 going to the new Macedonian army and after the demobilization, continued them in Belgrade, where he graduated in 1946.

In 1948, he went to the newly established Philosophy Department of the Skopje University, as an assistant-professor in Mathematics. He happened to be the first Ph.D. student in the Skopje University (in 1952). In 1949 he had been appointed University lecturer, in 1953 - Docent, in 1958 - Asso. Prof., and from 1963 - Full Professor, until his retirement in 1987. The anniversary of Prof. Blagoj Popov is closely related with other important jubilees of the mathematical science in Republic of Macedonia: the 60th

anniversary of the Skopje University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" and 40 years of the establishment of the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts (MANU). He had been among their first members as well as a long-years chief - as the first Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Rector of the Skopje University; Secretary of the Academy Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Secretary and Vice-President of the MANU-Academy, etc. Prof. Popov was also President of the Society of Mathematicians, Physicists and Astronomers in Macedonia, as well as in Yugoslavia; Vice-President of the Balkan Mathematical Union, and had also another long list in his CV of high social and scientific positions to serve the development of the education and mathematical science in Macedonia and Yugoslavia, and in many international organizations.

The Macedonian mathematicians faithfully recognize Prof. Blagoj Popov as a founder, together with Prof. Dragoslav Mitrinović (his Ph.D. adviser), of the Mathematical Analysis in Macedonia. His research interests and numerous publications (more than 70) are in the areas as functions of complex variables and algebraic calculations, and basically - in the field of differential equations and special functions related to them. He had the chance to specialize and develop himself as a scientist, and to play his pioneering mission in Macedonia in the time when this field became essentially important for the applications of Mathematics in Engineering and Physics - the time of the first electrotechniques (related to systems of linear differential equations), rocket techniques (differential equation with variable mass), nuclear energy problems (special functions and differential equations of mathematical physics), control theory, etc. Nowadays, looking back at the list of his publications, it happens that there is no kind of differential equation or special function that has not been studied by him! – He had investigated:

- the equation of ballistics, the hypergeometric, Riccati, Legendre, confluent hypergeometric, Bessel, Weber, Hermite, Darboux, Whittaker, Laplace differential equations;
- the orthogonal polynomials, the Legendre, Gegenbauer, Jacobi, Hermite, Laguerre, Bernoulli, Bessel, Bernoulli, Tchebycheff polynomials, the associate spherical Legendre functions, the ultraspherical polynomials, the generalized Legendre and q -Appel polynomials.

On the occasion of the conference dedicated to his 85th anniversary, the organizers have arranged publication of his selected works in the volume: "*Selected Works of Blagoj S. Popov*" (Editor: Donco Dimovski), Fac. of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Skopje (2008), 376 p. (In Macedonian). More about the detailed biography of the Jubilee, one can find also in the special issue

of *"Annuaire de l' Institut des Mathématiques"* (*God. Zb. Inst. Mat.*) – Fac. des Sci. de l'Univ. "Sts. Kiril et Metodij" – Skopje, Tome **41** (2008), pp. 1-36, D. Dimitrovski: Academician Blagoj S. Popov - His life and work.

For the Bulgarian mathematical audience, it is a great honour that Academician Blagoj Popov had been introduced in the mathematical sciences during his studies in Sofia University, by our classicists - mathematicians, then being his lecturers in the Department of Physics and Mathematics. In the post-war years of establishment and development of the new era mathematical sciences in the Balkan countries, Acad. B. Popov had been in close collaboration with our older Bulgarian teachers and colleagues, both officially in the frames of the *Balkan Mathematical Union (BMU)* as well as on the base of personal friendship. After a period of inactivity for BMU, lasting more than a decade after the political and structural changes since 1989, the Mathematical Societies of the Balkan countries decided to revive the activities of the Balkan Mathematical Union and to establish a new organization, called *"Mathematical Society of South-Eastern Europe"* (*MASSEE*). In September 2003 in the Bulgarian winter resort Borovets, it was held the first MASSEE Congress. Then, Academician Blagoj Popov was honored with the title of *Foreign Fellow of the Union of Bulgarian Mathematicians (UBM)*, and during the Ohrid conference – on the occasion of his 85th anniversary – I had the pleasure to handle him another Bulgarian distinction - *Honorary medal with a ribbon of the UBM*, for his essential contribution to the development and collaboration between the mathematical societies of the countries in South-Eastern Europe.

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the international journal *"Fractional Calculus and Applied Analysis"* (FCAA), closely specialized in the topics he worked for long years - as special functions and related differential equations of mathematical physics, and on behalf of the *Bulgarian mathematical collegium in that area*, I would like to pass to Professor Blagoj Popov our sincere congratulations and best regards on the occasion of his jubilee, wishing him continuing same energy, enthusiasm and high spirit he commanded during all the years of service to Mathematics, as well as at the time of the Ohrid conference. Cordially yours,

September 4, 2008

Asso. Prof. Dr. Virginia Kiryakova,
MANAGING EDITOR OF "FCAA"