Andor Kertész
1929—1974

DR. ANDOR KERTÉSZ, Professor of Algebra at the University of Debrecen, member of the Editorial Board of *Publicationes Mathematicae*, a mathematician of international renown, passed away in the full vigour of his creative powers on April 3, 1974.

Andor Kertész was born on February 19, 1929 in the town of Gyula. After schooling in his native town he continued his studies at the University of Debrecen, where he graduated with honours in mathematics in 1952. Even as an undergraduate he displayed an exceptional talent for mathematics, and his interest was attracted, from the beginning, primarily by abstract algebra. In appreciation of his excellent results, as a senior student he was entrusted with teaching mathematics in the Institute of Mathematics at the University of Debrecen as early as 1950. Soon after graduation he started postgraduate work under the supervision of Professor TIBOR SZELE, the outstanding scientist, Head of the Chair of Algebra who, like Andor Kertész, met with an early death. This relationship, professional and friendly, came to become one of the richest and most productive periods of his life. His outstanding scientific results soon won high recognition: in 1953 he was awarded the Géza Grünwald Prize by the János Bolyai Mathematical Society. As a young man, at the age of 25, he was granted the scientific degree called 'Candidate of the Mathematical Sciences' and three years later, in 1957, the academic doctor's degree (given by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) for his thesis *Az operátormodulusok általános elméletéhez (Contributions to the general theory of operator modules)*. In 1963 he was appointed Professor at the University of Debrecen, where he held the Chair of Algebra and Number Theory from 1960 to 1968. For a number of years, between 1962—1964 and 1968—1971 he worked as visiting Professor at Martin Luther University, Halle. In acknowledgement of his activities he was awarded the Memorial Medal of the University of Halle.

The rich scientific output of Andor Kertész will receive a detailed appreciation in the next issue of our periodical. His most lasting scientific results are in the field of the theories of groups, operator modules and rings. He wrote his first scientific publication in 1950, followed by over sixty subsequent papers and a great number of reviews. His valuable results have received much attention all over the world and are referred to in numerous books and papers. His book *Vorlesungen über artinsche Ringe* has won wide recognition both at home and abroad. The English edition of the book is in preparation. Another book of his in German, on the application of transfinite methods in contemporary algebraic investigations, is in press. He wrote a monograph on the life and work of Georg Cantor, to be published before long. As long as he lived, he never stopped working, even in the last weeks of his life, when in the hospital ward he succumbed to the fatal illness which interrupted the course of his creative life.

After winning a number of prizes of high order in mathematics, in 1968 he was awarded the Grand Prize of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and in the same year he was elected an ordinary member of the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina.

He acted as adviser to several mathematical periodicals, both Hungarian and foreign. As editor-in-chief of Publicationes Mathematicae for several years and later as member of the Editorial Board, he contributed a great deal towards maintaining the high standard of the periodical. Recognition of his activities was marked by his widespread connections with Hungarian and foreign academic institutions and membership in various mathematical societies. He presented numerous papers on his scientific results at congresses on algebra in various parts of the world, and was frequently invited to conduct courses as visiting professor. As member of the János Bolyai Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences he played a prominent role in the public life of mathematicians in Hungary.

Andor Kertész was also a fine lecturer, his lectures, seminars and special courses were highly popular both among the students and his colleagues. His influence as a scientist and educator is represented by the remarkable results of the many graduate students who did research under his supervision. In various parts of the world there are students of his who remember him with great respect and affection. Many of them owe to him the first decisive impulse towards mathematical research work and some of them have become well-known specialists in algebra.

Andor Kertész was a warm-hearted, helpful teacher, colleague and friend, he set an example both as a teacher and as a man. The University could, in all circumstances, rely on his services, abilities, and indefatigable working capacity. With his untimely death Hungarian mathematics has lost an outstanding scientist, and the University of Debrecen an eminent professor and man.

K. Győry