



László György Kovács

1936–2013

Professor László György Kovács died in Brisbane (Australia) on 28th July 2013 after a massive heart attack. A Protestant priest József Kovács' son, he was born in Budapest in 1936. He attended Debrecen University between 1954 and 1958, and obtained his master's degree as a secondary school teacher of mathematics and physics in 1958. His masters were professors T. Szele and A. Kertész.

After graduation he left Hungary for Manchester (England) where he obtained his Ph.D. from Manchester University. His supervisor was Professor B.H. Neumann. In 1963 he joined the Department of Mathematics in the Research School of Physical Sciences, Australian National University (ANU). He

taught there until his retiring in 2001, and continued as a retired visiting fellow. He supervised 18 graduate students. An outstanding algebraist he has numerous important results in group theory. Especially valuable are his achievements in characterization of groups, in varieties of groups, in representation theory, but also in free Lie algebras. He published more than 100 papers.

He performed nearly all his mathematical activity in Australia. Nevertheless, he throughout upheld a close contact with Debrecen and Hungary. He was a guest Professor at the University of Debrecen in the 1980s. In acknowledgement of this fruitful connection, he was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of Debrecen University in 2003. Also he was an active member of the Editorial Board of our journal, helping us with his advice and reports.

He was a highly appreciated, much beloved colleague. His passing away is a painful loss not only to the Australian, but also to the Hungarian mathematical community. He is survived by his wife Margaret and three children.

The Editorial Board