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OBITUARY NOTICES

PROFESSOR EDWARD MAITLAND WRIGHT (13-02-1906 TO 02-02-2005)

Sir Edward Wright, whose book, "Introduction to the Theory of Numbers", co written with G.H.Hardy, has been a classic in the introduction to the theory of numbers and is still considered to be one of the most, if not the most, comprehensive introductions to the field, has sadly passed away this past year. Having only learned basic arithmetic at age 14, he went on to be a "pupil teacher" at age 16, and published regularly from age 24 till the time of his death. A truly inspirational figure he was largely self-taught. He was a recipient of the Senior Berwick Prize of the London Mathematical Society and the royal Society of Edinburgh. He is well known for his results in Analytic Number Theory, most notable his work on partition of integers. His paper, "Asymptotic partition formulae, III. Partitions into kth powers" in Acta Mathematica (1934) deserves a special note, being very influential in the field of partitions, and its subsequent influence in the theory of numbers. In 1924, Wright left Oxford in the following year when, at the age of 29, he was appointed as Professor of Mathematics at Aberdeen, where he stayed until his retirement in 1976. At this point he became a Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen and held this post until 1983.

PROFESSOR M.V.SUBBARAO (4-05-1921 TO 15-02-2006)

Professor M.V. Subbarao is an Indian Mathematician. He did his Ph.D with Professor Vaidyanathaswami. After his Ph.D. he worked in Presidency College (MADRAS), Sri S.V. University (TIRUPATHI), University of Missouri (COLORADO), and permanently in the University of Alberta (EDMONTON, CANADA). He used to invite good mathematicians to work with him in CANADA. It was the case with D. Suryanarayana, R. Sitaramachandrarao and many others. I was also one of them.

Indian Collaborators

K.G.Ramanathan, K.Ramachandra, R.Balasubramanian, D.Suryanarayana, R.Sitaramachandrarao, V.Sivaramaprasad, V.Sitaramaiah, Arun Verma,. A.K.Agarwal, V.V.Subrahmanya Sastri, M.Sugannamma, Vidyasagar.

He has written 8 joint papers with Professor P.Erdöos. Naturally his Erdös number is 1.

With the sad demise of Professor M.V.Subbarao, we have lost one mathematician who worked in many branches of Mathematics especially Functional Analysis, Arithmetical functions, Partitions and so on.

For more details consul R.M.S., Lecture Notes No.1 Number Theory (Proceedings of an International Conference held at IMSc, Chennai in January 2002) and also an obituary of Professor M.V. Subbarao (to appear in Current Science), authored by R.Balasubramanian.

PROFESSOR V. C. DUMIR (07-06-1943 to 03-02-2006)

Prof. Vishwa Chander Dumir, an eminent mathematician and a distinguished scholar, Department of Mathematics, Panjab University, Chandigarh left for his heavenly abode suddenly, on February 3, 2006.

Professor Dumir was born on June 7, 1943 at Mighiana, District Jhang now in Pakistan. He was the second son of Smt and Shri Bhagwan Dass Dumir. He got his early education at Roorkee U.P. before moving to Chandigarh in 1953. He had a brilliant academic career. He graduated from Government College Chandigarh and stood first in B.A. Honours in Mathematics. He did his M.A. (Mathematics) from Department of Mathematics, Panjab University in 1962 and stood first in the University. He joined the Department of Mathematics, Panjab University, Chandigarh for research under the guidance of Professor R.P. Bambah and moved to Ohio State University in 1964 with Professor R.P.Bambah, where he was awarded Ph.D. in 1965. The title of his thesis was "Diophantine Inequalities for Quadratic and other forms". He served as Assistant Professor at Ohio State University (1966) and at University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign from 1966-1968. He joined the Department of Mathematics as Reader in July 1968 and was promoted as Professor in 1979.

Professor Dumir made significant contributions in Number Theory especially in the fields of Geometry of Numbers and discrete Geometry. Some of his major achievements are: proof of a conjecture of G.L.Watson on non-homogeneous minima of indefinite quadratic forms, proof of a conjecture of Bambah, Dumir and Hans-Gill on positive values of non-homogeneous indefinite quadratic forms, proof of a conjecture of L. Fejes Toth on saturated system of circles and convex domains, proofs of conjectures of Mahler and Jackson. He proved results on Lattice double packings and Lattice double coverings in the plane, an analogue of a problem of Mordell and general covering density by star domains. He worked extensively on Cusick's View-obstruction problems, developed a general theory of View-obstruction problems, generalized it to subspaces and flats, obtained several special results on this and the Billiard Ball motion problem of Schoenberg. He also contributed to the determination of idempotent generators of minimal cyclic codes. He collaborated with Professors R.P. Bambah, R.J.Hans-Gill, J.B.Wilker, D.S.Khassa, V.K.Grover, Madhu Raka and Dr. Ranjeet Sehmi, Dr.Harsh Anand, Dr.Gurmeet Kaur and Ms. Anuradha Sharma.

He was elected Fellow of Indian National Science Academy in 1983 and of the National Academy of Sciences in 1985. He was awarded Srinivasa Ramanujan Birth Centenary Award by Indian Science Congress Association in 2004. He visited Universities of Cambridge, Oxford and London under the British Council Exchange Programme in 1972. He visited University of Illinois in 1977-78 under the Indo American Fellowship of UGC. He was visiting Professor to Ohio State University (1986-88), University of Colorado (1998), University of Illinois (2000-2001). He delivered invited talks in many seminars and confer-

ences at many places in India and abroad. He was honoured on the occasion of his 60th birthday felicitations for his significant contribution to 'Geometry of Numbers' and 'Discrete Mathematics' during the International conference on Discrete Mathematics, Commutative Algebra and Computational Algebraic Geometry held at Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad from December 8-13, 2003.

Professor Dumir has published more than 50 research papers in the area of Number Theory. He was an excellent teacher and eminent researcher. As a person, Professor Dumir was very cordial, hospitable and friendly. The mathematics community has suffered irreparable loss due to sudden demise of Professor Dumir. He is survived by his wife - Saroj and two sons-Sanjeev and Neeraj, both of them are accomplished engineers.