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Boris Pavković
(1931 – 2006)
Portrait of a distinguished teaching expert and popularizer of mathematics

Last year, a long-time member of the Faculty of Science (PMF) – Department of Mathematics in Zagreb, university professor dr. sc. Boris Pavković, passed away. He was a great lover of mathematics, geometry in particular, researcher and instructor. Through his scientific, professional, pedagogical and social work he contributed significantly to the development, understanding and popularization of geometry and mathematics in our community.

Towards the end of the 1970s, Professor Pavković began lecturing a two-year course in the teaching methodology of mathematics and thus, with his knowledge, experience and talent, aided by his teaching and pedagogical instincts, greatly influenced modern structuring and presentation of teaching methodology of mathematics at Croatian universities. As a teaching expert and popularizer of mathematics he has left an impact on the past forty years of teaching mathematics in Croatian primary and secondary schools. His influence will long remain present through his books and articles, colleagues and co-workers, as well as former students. Therefore, the entire work of Professor Pavković calls for and deserves a detailed analysis and overall recognition.

Professor Boris Pavković passed away in Zagreb on June 6, 2006. The ceremony took place on June 9 at the Zagreb Crematorium, and the urn was placed on June 13 on Mirogoj. In memory of the dear colleague and distinguished Professor there was a commemoration on June 28, 2006 at the Faculty of Science – Department of Mathematics, University of Zagreb. The life and work of Professor Pavković, outlined in words of respect and gratitude, was captured in eulogies by Professors Pavle Pandžić, Mirko Polonijo, Vladimir Volenec, Sanja Varošanec, Sibe Mardešić and Željka Milin-Šipuš. Additionally, Professors Margita Pavleković and Ivan Kamenarović, could not attend due to health problems and sent written eulogies which were read on their behalf.

Professor Boris Pavković was born on November 20, 1931 in Zagreb to father Josip (1904-1977) and mother Hermina, born Petriša (1905-1999). "I come from a functionary family", he wrote in his CV attached to the 1960 job application. He had three brothers, Bruno (born 1935), Branko (1943-1983) and Božidar (1945-1997). After departing he left his beloved behind: wife Marija, daughter Jasna Orešić and granddaughter Sunčana.

He finished elementary school in Čakovec, where he learned Hungarian, Čakovec being under Hungarian authority at the time. In the same town he passed the so-called minor course exam in 1947. Josip Pavković's family returned to Zagreb in the same year and Professor Pavković enrolled in the 5th (boys') Grammar School where he graduated in 1951. In the same year, he passed the so-called major course exam. Shortly before being admitted to hospital, on May 25, 2006, Professor Pavković celebrated his 55th grammar school graduation anniversary with his former schoolmates.

In the autumn of 1951, Professor Pavković enrolled in the Faculty of Science of the University of Zagreb as a mathematics major. "He completed all the prescribed courses", in other words, he graduated in mathematics on January 30, 1957 at the Department of Mathematics and Physics – study course applied mathematics, and was awarded the degree of graduate mathematician. His graduation thesis was written under the mentorship of Professor Stanko Bilinski, who later supervised his dissertation and was Head of the Institute for many years.

Immediately after graduation Professor Boris Pavković was employed at the Secondary School of Wood Technology, where he had already taught mathematics as a graduate student. In the autumn of 1957, he joined the army due to mandatory military service. Upon return he taught mathematics at the Secondary School of Civil Engineering.

In the autumn of 1959, he was appointed assistant at the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture in Zagreb. In the period of two academic years, 1959/60 and 1960/61, he worked at the same faculty as assistant to the distinguished Professor Danilo Blanuša, with whom he also developed a long-lasting friendship ("It was fantastic working with him!", Professor Pavković stated in an interview by L. Gusić published in *Matka* vol. 51 (2005)).

In the autumn of 1961, Professor Pavković was appointed assistant at the Institute of Geometry of the Faculty of Science. He remained at this Institute until his retirement, building his career as a scientist, teaching expert, author of textbooks and popularizer of mathematics. As one of the postgraduate students of the first generation of postgraduate studies in mathematics (initiated in the academic year 1960/61), Professor Pavković obtained his Master's degree in 1966 with his work *Focal points of continuous mapping*, under the mentorship of Professors Siba Mardešić and Pavle Papić.

In the academic year 1971/72 Professor Boris Pavković spent a sabbatical at the Moscow State University (MGU) of Lomonosov. This specialization in Moscow (completed in 1974), particularly his work and experiences within a seminar of the noted geometer B. A. Rosenfeljd, was the key moment in his future scientific work.

He defended his doctoral dissertation *Application of differential geometry of curves and planes in isotropic spaces*, created under the mentorship of Professor S. Bilinski, on May 15, 1974. The evaluation commission consisted of Professors Stanko Bilinski, Dominik Palman and Danilo Blanuša. He was appointed assistant professor in 1975. He became senior scientific associate and immediately afterwards associate professor in 1980 (the electoral commission consisted of Professors Dominik Palman, Sibe Mardešić and Svetozar Kurepa). After the appointment to scientific advisor in 1989, Professor Boris Pavković was promoted in the same year into the rank of full professor (the members of the electoral commission were Professors D. Palman, V. Volenec and M. Prvanović). He retired on October 1, 1994.

The scientific work and research of Professor Boris Pavković belongs to the area of differential geometry of space with projective metrics, particularly differential geometry of isotropic space:

B. Pavković, *Eine Verallgemeinerung der Frenetschen Formeln im isotropen Raum,* Glasnik Mat. **4**(**24**)(1969), 117-122.

B. Pavković und V. Volenec, *Über die Potenzpunkte der halbkonfokalen (n-1)-Rotationsquadriken,* Glasnik Mat **4**(**24**)(1969), 275-282.

B. Pavković und V. Volenec, *Einige Sätze über die Rotations-hyperquadriken im E_n mit einem gemeinsamen Brennpunkt oder einer gemeinsamen Leithyperebene,* Glasnik Mat **7**(**27**)(1972), 109-112.

B. Pavković, *Pseudogeodätische und Unionlinien auf Flächen im isotropen Raum $I_3^{(1)}$,* Glasnik Mat. **10**(**30**)(1975), 115-124.

B. Pavković, *Allgemeine Lösung des Frenetschen Systems von Differentialgleichungen im isotropen und pseudoisotropen dreidimensionalen Raum,* Glasnik Mat. **10**(**30**)(1975), 321-327.

B. Pavković, *Eine kennzeichnende Eigenschaft der Zykel der Galileischen Ebene,* Arch. Math. **32**(1979), 509-512.

B. Pavković, *An interpretation of the relative curvatures for surfaces in the isotropic space,* Glasnik Mat. **15**(**35**)(1980), 149-152.

B. Pavković, *Differential geometry of curves in isotropic space,* Berichte der Math. -Stat. Sekt. , Forschungszentrum Graz, Ber. Nr. 196(1983), 1-10.

B. J. Pavković, *Äquiform-metrische Kurven isotroper Räume,* Berichte der Math. -Stat. Sekt. , Forschungszentrum Graz, Ber. Nr. 242(1985), 1-14.

B. J. Pavković, *On a property of cubic parabola in isotropic plane,* Rad JAZU **413**(1985), 155-158.

B. J. Pavković, *Equiform geometry of curves in the isotropic spaces* $I_3^{(1)}$ *and* $I_3^{(2)}$, Rad JAZU **421**(1986), 39-44.

B. J. Pavković and I. Kamenarović, *The equiform differential geometry of curves in the Galilean space* G_3, Glasnik Mat. **22**(**42**)(1987), 449-457.

B. J. Pavković and I. Kamenarović, *The general solution of the Frenet system in the doubly isotropic space* $I_3^{(2)}$, Rad JAZU **428**(1987), 17-24.

B. J. Pavković, *The general solution of the Frenet system of differential equations for curves in the Galilean space* G_3, Rad JAZU **450**(1990), 123-128.

B. J. Pavković, *Relative differential geometry of surfaces in isotropic space,* Rad JAZU **450**(1990), 129-137.

The major scientific results of Professor Boris Pavković represent the complete description of plane differential geometry in certain spaces with projective metrics, and a detailed analysis of the Frenet systems in these spaces. Furthermore, his work on issues related to the teaching methodology of mathematics is extremely significant. He is responsible for our long-term, quality relationships with Austrian and Hungarian geometers in both areas. He had a special ability into motivating younger colleagues to engage in scientific work with him. His openness and unselfishness enabled him to assist people by offering them cooperation and advice, in most cases on his own initiative. Naturally, this did not end after his retirement, caused by his weak health after a difficult operation in 1983. He helped with joy, particularly younger people and those who needed help most. Having a natural ability to connect with people, he gladly and limitlessly shared his wide knowledge, experience and skills with students, graduates, as well as with those who completed their theses and dissertations under his supervision. Approximately a hundred students graduated, ten were awarded their Master's degree and seven their PhD under Professor Pavković's supervision.

His early inclination towards geometry and teaching methodology as well as his choice to pursue them as his career was described in an interview conducted by his friend, Professor B. Dakić (Školske novine, June 23, 1992).

"Upon my enrollment in mathematical studies I was lucky that geometry was taught by two excellent professors, Rudolf Cesarec and Stanko Bilinski. It was their „fault" that I fell in love with geometry. Their lectures were interesting, not only in their content, but also in the way they were presented, with a high sense of structure. Everything I learned about methodology at the university, I learned from them. One characteristic of their lectures was their poetic nature. I will never forget a lecture by Professor Cesarec in basic geometry. After he had completed a formula, in order to emphasise its fundamental role he said: "This formula represents the key to the safe in which the most beautiful secrets of hyperbolic geometry are stored". After mentioning this I believe it is clear why I chose geometry as my calling and why I became a teaching expert as well. Besides, I need to note that it is geometry that is particularly challenging for teaching methodology. Anyway, it

is well known that the aforementioned professors created an entire school of good lecturers and that this fact became the main feature of the Institute of Geometry at the time."

Within the undergraduate studies he taught many courses, some of which were *Elementary Mathematics*, *Descriptive Geometry, Differential Geometry, Linear Algebra, Teaching Methodology of Mathematics,* and within postgraduate studies *Riemann's Geometry.*

Professor Pavković participated and delighted with his lectures at other universities as well (Osijek, Split, Rijeka) by significantly contributing to raising the level and awareness of mathematical culture at these faculties of education. He was a top lecturer, regardless of his audience – clear and systematic in his expression and explanations, comments and notes, always brilliantly, carefully and methodically prepared. To his listeners each of his lectures was a new, content-filled, learning experience in mathematics and in how to teach mathematics. By heading for many years the Entrance Examination Committee, he established great connections and cooperation with many young colleagues, instructing them at the beginning of their teaching careers in various skills of a level-headed examiner.

Towards the end of the 1970s, Professor Pavković took over lectures within the course T*eaching Methodology of Mathematics*. Due to his wide knowledge and talent, as well as his teaching instincts, this moment caused a significant turn in the state of affairs at the Faculty of Science in the area of modern structuring and presentation of this previously neglected discipline.

He was also the head of a scientific project in the area of teaching methodology of mathematics.

As for methodology, he used to say that it was his "inner" calling: "I can't explain it, I love that job. It's always a challenge to find ways of explaining something complicated. My favourite weapon is the living word. Unfortunately, I don't like to write. I must mention here the influence of an acclaimed mathematician and teaching expert, professor at Stanford University, George Polya, an American of Hungarian origin. For many years he gave lectures at that university which were intended for future professors of mathematics and wrote many books in which he dealt with these issues. I'd like to take this opportunity to draw attention to two of them, *Mathematics and Plausible Reasoning* and *Mathematical Discovery*. (…) All the topics are abundantly illustrated by concrete mathematical content from the area of elementary mathematics. His views on teaching are in accordance with the Recommendation of the American Mathematical Society, whose main principle is *Guess, research and prove*. By this we mean that, on a small scale, one must imitate the creative activity of mathematicians. The aforementioned principle is the foundation of all my methodological endeavours. " (quoted in *Školske novine*). Indeed, within the entire methodological work of Professor Pavković the implementation of basic ideas of G. Poly (1905-1985) is clearly visible. In his work, he implemented the recommendation to use all methods used

by mathematicians in their research in mathematics instruction as well. Of all the teaching methods he favoured the heuristic one, attempting to encourage students and pupils to discover the laws individually and try to prove them by means of appropriate tasks.

Thirty years ago, Professor Pavković was also the first to successfully design the course *Elementary Mathematics* by means of which the gap between the secondary school level of acquired knowledge and mathematical studies at the Faculty of Science – Department of Mathematics was to be overcome. He was the co-author of the university textbook according to which the aforementioned, as well as some other courses are still being taught:

B. Pavković, D. Veljan, *Elementarna matematika I*, Tehnička knjiga, Zagreb, 1992, 399 stranica.

B. Pavković, D. Veljan, *Elementarna matematika II*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 1995, 609 stranica.

He published a number of interesting articles on elementary mathematics:

B. Pavković, "Fotogrametrija", *Matematičko fizički list* 12 (1961/62), 159-160.

S. Kurepa, B. Pavković, "Površina poopćenog kruga", *Matematičko fizički list* 17 (1966/67), 54-59.

B. Pavković, "Dokaz iracionalnosti vrijednosti trigonometrijskih funkcija", *Matematičko fizički list* 29 (1978/79), 5-6.

B. Pavković, "Geometrijski način rješavanja Pellove jednadžbe*", Matematičko fizički list* 33 (1982/83), 75-78.

V. Devčić, B. Pavković, D. Veljan, "Seminar za stručno usavršavanje profesora matematike", *Matematika* 1 (1983), 87-90.

B. J. Pavković, "Lagrangeov zakon i njegove primjene", *Matematičko fizički list* 38 (1987/88), 4-9.

A. Rubčić, J. Rubčić, B. Pavković, "O trokutima pridruženim poligonima", *Matematičko fizički list* 38 (1987/88), 121-126.

B. J. Pavković, "Metoda analogije i primjene u nastavi", *Matematika* 1 (1988), 20-27.

B. Pavković, "Primjena metode afine geometrije", *Matematika* 4 (1990), 17-30.

B. Pavković, B. Dakić, "Funkcionalne jednadžbe", *Matematičko fizički list* 42 (1991/92), 65-72.

B. Pavković, P. Mladinić, "Sferna geometrija i Eulerova formula-još jedan dokaz", *Bilten Seminara iz matematike za nastavnike mentore*-Kraljevica 1996, HMD i Element, Zagreb, 1996, 102-107.

B. Pavković, P. Mladinić, "Polinomska geometrija", *Bilten Seminara iz*

matematike za nastavnike mentore-Novi Vinodolski 1997, HMD i Element, Zagreb, 1997, 94-100.

B. Pavković, P. Mladinić, "Gaussova konstrukcija tangenata kružnice", *Matematičko fizički list* 48 (1997/98), 65-67.

B. Pavković, P. Mladinić, "Polinomska geometrija", *Matematičko fizički list* 49 (1998/99), 135-140.

B. Pavković, P. Mladinić, "O nastavi transformacija algebarskih izraza", *Poučak* 2/3 (2000), 60-63. ; također u Zbornik radova 1. kongresa, HMD, Zagreb, 2000, 259-262.

B. Pavković, "O djeljivosti brojeva", *Zbornik radova 1. kongresa*, HMD, Zagreb, 2000, 263-271.

B. Pavković, "Metoda posebnih slučajeva", *Zbornik radova 6. susreta nastavnika matematike*, HMD, Zagreb, 2002, 381-387.

B. Pavković, P. Mladinić, "Geometrija polinoma", *Zbornik radova 2. kongresa*, HMD, Zagreb, 2004, 280-281.

Many expert topics were dealt with in his books:

B. Pavković, ¸B. Dakić, *Polinomi*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 1987, 179 stranica.

B. Pavković, *Diofantske jednadžbe*, Društvo mladih matematičara Pitagora, Beli Manastir, 1988, 14 stranica.

B. Pavković, *Kongruencije*, Društvo mladih matematičara Pitagora, Beli Manastir, 1988, 16 stranica.

B. Pavković, *Inverzija u ravnini i njene primjene*, Društvo mladih matematičara Pitagora, Beli Manastir, 1990, 22 stranice.

B. Pavković, B. Dakić, Ž. Hanjš, P. Mladinić, *Male teme iz matematike*, HMD i Element, Zagreb, 1994, 192 stranice.

B. Pavković, B. Dakić, P. Mladinić, *Elementarna teorija brojeva*, HMD i Element, Zagreb, 1994, 202 stranice.

B. Pavković, P. Mladinić, *Arhimedova metoda težišta*, HMD i Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 1998, 64 stranice.

Together with peer experts from the Institute of Geometry he co-authored a faculty handbook:

Z. Kurnik, D. Palman, B. Pavković, *Zadaci iz nacrtne geometrije, Mongeova projekcija*, Tehnička knjiga, Zagreb, 1973, 236 stranica.

Professor Pavković contributed to three very important secondary school handbooks which had many repeated, rewritten, corrected, expanded and complemented editions and which can be found today as part of the latest grammar school textbooks:

B. Pavković, N. Horvatić, *Zbirka zadataka iz matematike 1*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 1973, (prvo izdanje).

B. Pavković, D. Svrtan, D. Veljan, *Matematika 3, zbirka zadataka za treći razred srednjeg usmjerenog obrazovanja*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 1977 (prvo izdanje).

B. Pavković, D. Veljan, *Zbirka zadataka iz matematike 1 za prvi razred srednjeg usmjerenog obrazovanja*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 1984 (prvo izdanje).

Also significant is his work as a translator due to which we have obtained several valuable foreign mathematical works in the Croatian language:

G. Choquet, *Nastava geometrije*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 1974, 198 pages (translated from French by D. Palman i B. Pavković).

A. I. Fetisov, *O euklidskoj i neeuklidskim geometrijama*, Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 1981, 258 pages (translated from Russian by D. Palman i B. Pavković).

G. Polya, *Matematičko otkriće*, HMD, Zagreb, 2003, 434 pages (translated from English by B. Pavković, P. Mladinić i R. Svedrec).

G. I. Gleizer, *Povijest matematike za školu*, Školske novine i HMD, 2003, 564 pages (translated from Russian and adapted by B. Pavković, I. Urbiha, P. Mladinić).

I. N. Bronštejn i suradnici, *Matematički priručnik*, Goldenmarketing-Tehnička knjiga, Zagreb, 2004, XLIV + 1168 pages (translated from Russian and German by B. Pavković, I. Uremović, D. Veljan i dr. ; edited by B. Pavković i D. Veljan).

Moreover, in connection to different mathematical titles, Professor Pavković acted as editor, professional consultant, reviewer and as proofreader and draftsman of mathematical pictures.

At the Faculty of Science – Department of Mathematics Professor Boris Pavković was Head of the Institute of Geometry (1992-1994), Head and Assistant Head of the Seminar of Geometry, as well as the Seminar of Differential Geometry, and one of the founders and the first long-standing Head of the Department of Teaching Methodology of Mathematics (1990-1992). His acted as Vice-Dean for academic affairs in the academic years 1981/82 and 1982/83.

For his long-standing and undeniable contribution to the popularization of science, mathematics in particular, Professor Boris Pavković was awarded the State Prize *Fran Tućan* in 1992.

In the aforementioned interview for *Školske novine*, when asked what popularizing mathematics meant, considering the fact that many non-mathematicians, but also mathematicians, are very sceptical of such a concept, Professor Pavković replied: “To popularize mathematics means firstly to get as many people as possible interested in learning about it, and after that, to find ways

to get them acquainted with its value in the most approachable way possible: the first step is relatively simple – one should use the most available and the most interesting media for the age group you want to target. For children those are comics and television. The difficulties arise at the second step and due to those difficulties many people become sceptical. There are indeed many areas of mathematics that are virtually impossible to popularize in the sense in which we speak of here. It needs to be said, though, that many new disciplines have been developed lately, mostly parallel to the development of computer science, such as graph theory, concrete mathematics, enumerative mathematics etc. , containing segments which can be presented in a very approachable manner. The job of a popularizer is to notice those segments and subject them to an appropriate analysis. Therefore, it is possible to talk about mathematics from a popular point of view, but it requires great effort. I would like to add that my answer to the same question would be much more complete and content-packed, if I could present it in front of a blackboard with chalk in my hand. In that case I could support it with numerous examples. ”

Professor Pavković was a long-standing member of the Croatian Mathematical Society (HMD). At the celebration of his 70th birthday at the Institute of Geometry in 2001, it was none other than him who won the greatest number of votes in the election for the new assembly of the HMD. This was not the first time that happened. On several occasions he was member of the Chairmanship of the Society, its Board of Directors or the Executive Board**.**

The work of Professor Pavković in the teaching section of the Mathematics Society was particularly important. During his entire service he was the pillar of teachers' evenings and gave numerous lectures, hosted meetings and created new content. At the Society anniversaries it was expected that Professor Pavković would be the one to best describe the work of the teaching section:

B. Pavković, “Djelatnost Društva u proteklih 40 godina – nastava matematike (povodom 40. obljetnice Društva matematičara i fizičara SR Hrvatske)”, *Glasnik Matematički* 24(44) (1989), 659-662.

B. Pavković, “O radu nastavne sekcije za matematiku”, *Matematika* 1 (1990), 73-77.

B. Pavković, “Djelatnost Društva u nastavi u proteklih 50 godina (povodom 50. obljetnice HMD-a)”, *Glasnik Matematički* 30(50) (1995), 380-384.

In order to understand the aforementioned 40 and 50 years of the Society it needs to be said that in 1945 the Mathematics and Physics Section of the Croatian Science Society was founded, followed by the independent Society of Mathematicians and Physicists in 1949. Within the latter, two new sections were founded in 1974, one of them being the Mathematics Section. In 1990, it expanded into what is known today as the Croatian Mathematical Society. After 1995, not a single possible “round” anniversary of the Society was celebrated.

Professor Pavković also wrote about the great Ruđer Bošković, as well as about his role models, Professors R. Cesarac and S. Bilinski:

B. Pavković,B. A. Rozenfeljd, "Ruđer Bošković", *Voprozi istorii estet-stvoznanija i tehniki*, Moskva, 1974.

B. Pavković, "Rudolf Cesarec – povodom 100. godišnjice rođenja", *Matematika* 1 (1990), 78-83.

B. Pavković, "Stanko Bilinski (povodom 80-tog rođendana)", *Istorija matematičkih i mehaničkih nauka* 4 (1991), 71-83.

B. Pavković, "Rudolf Cesarec – znanstvenik i pedagog", *Mathematical Communications* 1 (1996), 67-74.

B. Pavković, V. Volenec, "In memoriam: Stanko Bilinski (22. 4. 1909. -6. 4. 1998.)", Glasnik Matematički 33(55) (1998), 323-333.

Throughout many years he diligently took part in designing different teaching programmes in mathematics, he was a regular lecturer at seminars for teachers, at both regional and state level, at teacher meetings, and at teacher conferences. It is precisely due to his active nature and support that these manifestations have continued with their activities (Meetings since 1992, and Conferences since 2000).

Ever since the beginning of the journal *Matka* in 1992 until his death, Professor Boris Pavković was the editor-in-chief of this popular journal for primary school pupils. Most credits for the quality and the duration of the magazine go to him. It has been expanding mathematical knowledge through extra-curricular material and used such material as the source for developing creative thinking. In the editorial to the first issue, Professor Pavković revealed "what and why so" should a mathematical journal for primary school children look like. For this reason we give you the complete editorial:

"Dear children! You are looking at the first issue of the mathematical journal for primary school pupils. We named it *Matka*, because it is the nickname, hopefully a term of endearment, that you gave to mathematics. Mathematics is one of your school subjects causing problems for many students. Even worse, to some it is even a constant nightmare. Yet nowadays you can't do without mathematics. It is present in our everyday life, and it is directly or indirectly applied in areas which only at first sight have no connection to it (medicine, psychology, linguistics, different social studies, etc.). For this reason, whether you like it or not, mathematics has to be studied hard if you wish to continue your education after primary school. Fear of mathematics is the fear of the unknown. By means of studying and getting acquainted with mathematics, that fear will be gradually overcome. We would like *Matka* to contribute to that as well, which was the main incentive for its launching by the Croatian Mathematical Society. The Society has been publishing M*atematičko~fizički list* for secondary school students for over 40 years. *Matka* is intended for you – the youngest ones. Mathematics needs to be studied from early childhood. We want to introduce you to the ideas and structure of mathematics, to ways of thinking and concluding which we encounter on the

way to solving problems. We would like to prepare you for the creative application of mathematical knowledge in the most diverse situations. We would like to help you in experiencing the joy of mathematical discovery. We believe that with *Matka* you will grow to love maths. The mentioned goals have determined the contents of the magazine. In it we will publish articles whose content will not be based on monotonous and dry listing of facts, but will deal with ideas that enable solving certain types of mathematical problems. The focus should therefore be on the essence of mathematics. At the end of each article you will find exercises by means of which you can test the degree of success in using the described method. In other cases, the exercises in the journal will be of particular importance. We invite you to solve them with patience and persistence. We will inform you regularly about mathematics and computer science competitions for primary school pupils and publish the results of the competitions and the names of the winners. There will be much humour, fun maths, mathematical crossword puzzles and the section for our youngest ones. Through a variety of texts, you will be introduced to the historical development of maths, as well as to biographies of noted mathematicians. We won't neglect computer science either. (…) Write to us about what you would like to read about in your journal. Send us your contributions with anecdotes from maths classes in your school, activities of mathematical groups, interesting exercises that you found, etc. We will gladly publish them.

Sincerely yours, Boris Pavković".

Professor Pavković has significantly contributed to the foundation of the Children's' Mathematical Library for Pupils, and as the member of the Board of Directors of the Croatian Mathematical Society he initiated the entry of Croatia into the international Kangaroo Mathematics Contest.

Professor Boris Pavković loved mathematics, taught it and popularized it with great skill. In this he was aided by his knowledge in foreign languages and his affinity towards literature, as well as his inborn diligence.

Besides that, he had an incredible sense of humour, often bordering on black humour. He was also creative in telling jokes. His good spirits did not abandon him even during the most difficult times. The basic characteristic of this hard-working man was goodness.

As a man, Professor Pavković was in more than one respect like the character of Nemeček, the boy from his favourite book *The Boys from Pavel's Street* by the Hungarian writer Ferenz Molnar – withdrawn, unobtrusive, devoted, resolute, faithful, sincere, noble, dedicated to the common cause and prosperity.

Everyone who has ever met Professor Boris Pavković received a piece of knowledge and goodness. By knowing him, we have become better people. For this reason we will value and respect him as long as we live.

(translated by Željka Nemet)

Prof Mirko Polonijo