

In Memoriam Jarolim Bureš (1942–2006)

Richard Delanghe

Jarolim Bureš was born on April 20th 1942 in the small village Cistá in the Bohemian part of the Czech Republic. He passed away on October 2nd 2006. He is survived by his wife Jarmila, his sons Petr and Jiri and two grandchildren.

He graduated in 1964 at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in Prague. He spent his whole career as a researcher and teacher at Charles University: he defended his CSc-dissertation, his habilitation and his Dr. Sc-dissertation in, respectively, 1972, 1978 and 2001; he was an Assistant Professor in the period 1964-1982 and an Associated Professor from 1982 on.

From the very start, his scientific activities were concentrated on differential geometry: in the 1970's, he was working in the field of general G-structure and from the beginning of the 1980's on, he focused his research on Clifford analysis and related properties of invariant operators on manifolds with special structures.

Some twenty-five years ago, one of those unpredictable currents in life connected the Departments of Mathematical Analysis sitting on the Vlatava and Scheldt rivers, the common attractor being Clifford analysis.

In 1982, the Ghent group published the monograph “Clifford Analysis” and during a stop at Ghent at the end of that same year, Vladimir Souček, who was travelling home from Oxford, invited the authors F. Brackx, F. Sommen and myself to give some lectures at the Winter School on “Geometry and Physics” which had been organized at Srni ever since 1980. One of the co-organizers of this Winter School was Jarolim Bureš. We met him for the first time in 1983 in Prague: together with some of his colleagues he guided us through its beautiful old centre.

This Winter School was the starting point of an ever lasting cooperation between the two research groups and Mitja - as Jarolim was commonly called - played, together with Vladimir Souček, a central role in the scientific activities jointly developed. The Workshop on Clifford Analysis and Applications 2007 was in some sense the closing stage of a two years joint project set up between the Prague and Ghent universities and Jarolim Bureš was one of its co-organizers from the Prague side. Unfortunately, he passed away one year earlier. His health had been declining since 2005; in particular his power of speech was severely touched during the period 2005-2006. Even so, he made every effort to keep abreast of developments: he attended regularly international conferences and discussed and

worked out new results, in particular with young researchers. It was hard to hear that in the summer of 2006 he could not continue his activities anymore.

Each time he came to Ghent, he was invited to share family life with us and we felt much happy to welcome Jarmila and their son Jiri when they were accompanying him. Vice versa, Renée and I and members of the Ghent group were several times at Jarmila and Mitja's home in Kladno. Needless to say that at each of these occasions, the family Souček was always represented. We remember quite well the warm discussions we had about their and our children. His concern about the changes in the educational system in Czech Republic and his eagerness to learn more about analogous trends in our country were always part of the lively discussions we had at such meetings. Our families met for the last time in Prague in March 2006: Mitja and Jarmila invited us a.o. to attend a concert by the Czech Philharmonic at the Rudolfinum.

We lost a good friend.

He was a distinguished mathematician and quintessentially a family man.

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