Preface

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Le Van Thiem received his doctorate in 1945 from Göttingen and he got his Doctorat d'État at the École Normale Supérieure de Paris in 1949.

In 1949, Le Van Thiem returned to Vietnam in the middle of a fierce resistance war for independence of Vietnam. He had a great contribution in building the University in the headquarters of the Resistance, and became a teacher of the first Vietnamese mathematicians. For the next dozen years, Vietnamese mathematicians were either his students or students of his students. We can say that Le Van Thiem is the founder of Mathematics in Vietnam.

In the first stage of his career, Le Van Thiem made a great contribution in the inverse problem of the value distribution theory of meromorphic functions (Nevanlinna theory). Later, he turned to applied mathematics, contributing to solving problems raised in Vietnamese practice such as oriented explosion, ground water under irrigation schemes, and the problem of calculating petroleum reserves.

Le Van Thiem himself is a part of the history of Mathematics in Vietnam. His name is given to a street in Hanoi and some schools throughout the country.

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