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ABEL, NIELS HENRIK (5. 8. 1802. - 6. 4. 1829.)
BOLYAI, JANOS (5. 12. 1802. - 27. 1. 1860.)

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In the beginning of 19th centenary, Norway was a country without any special mathematical tradition, Abel's family was very poor, however Abel managed with the strength of his genius and persistence become one of the greatest mathematicians in its history. His work is well-known and his greatest achievements were in algebra and mathematical analysis. Without any doubt the most popular and probably most important Abel's result is proof of the impossibility of solving algebraically the general equation of the fifth degree.

In honour of Abel the Government of Norway had, considering Department of Mathematics at University of Oslo proposal, founded a fund of 200 million Norwegian crowns (on the occasion of 200th anniversary of Abel's birth) from which every year **Abel's prize for mathematics** would be given. That prize would be as important as Nobel's prize. One of the reasons for publishing this text is the author's opportunity to thank people and Government of Norway in the name of the best students of University of Kragujevac for the given grants in the last few years.



This year I had the opportunity of being the leader of Yugoslav team at the 6th Junior Balkan Mathematical Olympiad (competition of young mathematicians not older than 15,5 years) which Romania, the host country, organized in Targu Mures in honour of famous Janos Bolyai. Targu Mures is a small town in Transylvania, in which Bolyai's mathematical papers remained and where he published his famous "Appendix" in 1832. That article contains elements of non-euclidian geometry and is the only Bolyai's work published during his life.



Abel's and Bolyai's successes in science can encourage many mathematicians all around the world to, if they have enough talent, courage and persistence in science, achieve extraordinary results. Contribution to the science needn't depend conditions in which sincere scientist lives and works.

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