

ALEKSANDAR KRON (1937–2000)

This issue of *Publications* is dedicated to Aleksandar Kron, distinguished philosopher, logician and person of many intellectual interests.

Born in Vršac, a small town in Vojvodina (an autonomous region of Serbia), Kron finished grammar school in Zrenjanin in 1956, came to Belgrade to study philosophy, graduated in 1960 and became an assistant at the Department of Philosophy. He received Ph.D. in philosophy in 1965 and was appointed an assistant professor in logic two years later. Kron taught mathematical logic at the Department continuously until 1999 (as a full professor eventually), when he left for Debrecen to succeed the late A. Dragalin. There he died there in summer of 2000 of a heart attack. As a visiting scholar Kron stayed in Oxford, Berkeley, Bloomington etc, and was most welcome all over former Yugoslavia as well. Beside logic Kron also taught philosophy and methodology of science. His pedagogical work is clearly reflected in the university textbooks *Logic* and *Elementary Set Theory* and he is a coauthor of a textbook in logic for grammar schools.

Although well known as a philosopher and a teacher of modern logic in particular, Kron made a name in the field of mathematical logic. His Ph.D. thesis deals with connections between many-valued logic and probability theory. He spent the 1963/64 academic year at the University of Amsterdam, supervised by E. W. Beth and A. Heyting and learned about intuitionism among other things. An important event in his intellectual life was the visit to the University of Pittsburgh (as a postdoctoral fellow) in 1970/71, where he met A. R. Anderson and N. Belnap, inventors of *relevant logics*, systems that lack the structural rule *weakening*. Kron appreciated the significance of these logics and the result was a number of papers over the years containing original ideas and techniques on the subject. On the other hand he studied properties of Grishin logic, a predicate logic lacking another structural rule called *contraction*. All this can be seen as an anticipation of the systematic study of substructural logics such as linear logic.

Another subject of interest for Kron was *quantum logic*, the study of logical systems related to quantum mechanics and the problem of its axiomatization in particular. Papers in decision theory, preference and choice, analysis of causality, logic of probability and philosophy of science should

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also be mentioned, especially because they clearly illustrate Kron's intellectual curiosity and wide range of interests.

Working in the Faculty of Philosophy Kron was nevertheless very much engaged in the Mathematical Institute in Belgrade. Thus he was an active member of the Seminar in Mathematical Logic (founded in the sixties by S. B. Prešić) from the very beginning. In 1989 Kron became the chairman of the seminar and led it (with Dj. Vukomanović) until his death. He was the president of the Serbian Philosophical Society and the founder of the Association for Pure and Applied logic of Serbia.

Kron married three times and is succeeded by the daughter Ana from his first marriage. He possessed a superb collection of classical music and was an admirer of J. S. Bach. He expressed himself as a writer: a fine collection of his short stories *Triumphal arch of death* appeared in 1996. A communist in his youth, Kron ended as an active opponent of the regime of Slobodan Milošević.

Sudden and untimely death of Aleksandar Kron (known to many simply as Saša) came as a shock to his family and friends and it is undoubtedly a great loss to the scientific community.

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