

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR MILEVA PRVANOVIĆ

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Academician Professor Mileva Prvanović was born in Žilne (Knjaževac, Serbia) on July 16, 1929. Her father, Stanko Prvanović, was a Professor of the Teacher Training College in Belgrade. Mileva Prvanović studied mathematics at the University of Belgrade from 1947 to 1951, and she defended her doctoral thesis in 1955 at the University of Zagreb. The title of her thesis was *Parageodesic space and parageodesic curves in a subspace of the Riemannian space*, the advisor of her PhD thesis was Professor Danilo Blanuša. Professor Mileva Prvanović was the first doctor of geometry in Serbia. Her university career was long and significant. At the beginning, she was a teaching assistant at the Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences in Belgrade. After that, Mileva Prvanović moved to the University of Novi Sad, where she had a position at the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Philosophy (later Faculty of Sciences) from 1955 to 1993. She was promoted for an assistant professor in 1957, then became an associated professor in 1962, and finally, in 1967, became a full professor in the field of geometry. She was also the dean of the Faculty of Science in Novi Sad. From 1981, she was the member of Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Professor Mileva Prvanović retired in 1993 and passed away in Belgrade, on February 12, 2016.

During her long career, Professor Mileva Prvanović lectured in many courses related to geometry at the university and wrote several textbooks. She was an excellent teacher who always had enough patience and understanding for students, who paid great attention to the quality of her lectures. Her responsibility in all respects was recognized, and appreciated by her students and colleagues. The influence of Professor Mileva Prvanović on students and young mathematicians who were interested in geometry, especially in differential geometry, was very significant. For a long time, she lectured at many Serbian universities and enjoyed to spread her knowledge and ideas in geometry to the whole mathematical community. Professor Mileva Prvanović was the chairperson of the Geometry Seminar at the Mathematical Institute of SANU and was one of its most faithful participants. She was the editor-in-chief of the Publications de l'Institut Mathématique (Belgrade), the oldest mathematical journal in Serbia and in former republics of Yugoslavia, also one of the founders and a big supporter of the conferences entitled *Geometrical Seminars*, organizer of other conferences in geometry, coeditor of proceedings of international conferences, and the project leader. She also developed collaboration

with colleagues in many countries. Her enormous energy allowed her to continue with almost the same activities after her retirement in 1993.

Professor Mileva Prvanović were interested in many topics in differential geometry. The most important topics of her work include transformations of smooth manifolds and their invariants, geometry of connections with torsion and torsion free connections, recurrent spaces, algebraic structures on manifolds, the theory of pseudosymmetry type manifolds, and others. The scientific work of Professor Mileva Prvanović was very reach and important for us, since they gave new ideas for new investigations, PhD thesis and books. She published more then eighty scientific papers in international and national journals. More details about the scientific work of Professor Mileva Prvanović could be found in: Neda Bokan, "Prof. Dr Mileva Prvanović – her contribution to Differential Geometry", Kragujevac J. Math. 25, 2003 and in: Svetislav M. Minčić, Ljubica S. Velimirović, "Academician Mileva Prvanović – the First Doctor of Geometrical Sciences in Serbia", Filomat 29:3, 2015. Professor Mileva Prvanović participated at many international conferences with plenary and invited lectures on differential geometry topics. Her last conference was the XIV International Conference of Tensor Society in Differential Geometry and its Applications and Informatics, Tsukuba, Japan, September 7–12, 2015. The list of her outstanding scientific publications, remarkably cross-referenced, is long and it shows about her imagination and creativity. She has been internationally recognized by the excellence of her scientific research, the highest standards and devotion to the scientific work. Professor Mileva Prvanović made a big contribution in creating young researchers in differential geometry in Serbia, since she was the advisor of many PhD thesis and MSc thesis. Her students include Professors Neda Bokan, Haizhong Li, Judita Cofman, Kostadin Trenčevski, Svetislav Minčić, Irena Čomić, Jovanka Nikić, Nevena Pušić, Djerđji Nadj, and others.

Professor Mileva Prvanović played a crucial role in the foundation, growth and development of differential geometry in Serbia, placing her amongst the foremost geometers of Serbia. All of us, who had the great privilege and honor of knowing Professor Mileva Prvanović, will remember her by her unique personality dominated by her cheerful spirit, by her wish to help anyone and by her fine sense of humor. Professor Mileva Prvanović will be greatly missed by the entire mathematical community.

The XIX Geometrical Seminar, held at Zlatibor, Serbia, from August 28 – September 4, 2016 was devoted to the Memory of Professor Mileva Prvanović.