

This volume of *Publications de l'Institut Mathématique* is dedicated to the centenary of Jovan Karamata's birth (1902–1967). Karamata is probably the best known Yugoslav mathematician. He studied and taught at the University of Belgrade until 1951, when he moved to the University of Geneva. He also visited many universities in Europe and in the United States, and had many students in Belgrade and all over the world.

The work of Jovan Karamata belongs to the field of classical analysis. He worked when this field reached its summit and produced long-lasting results. Karamata belonged truly to that time, and had all the qualities of a great analyst. His papers were appreciated for their elegant and original proofs, and are a testimony of his skill and of his dedication to mathematics.

He wrote 130 papers and several textbooks and manuals, among which a book in Serbian on the Stieltjes integral. Most of the papers are in real analysis, but there are also some in Fourier analysis, complex analysis, number theory and geometry.

The main part of Karamata's work is in summability theory of series and integrals, and is concerned, in particular, with the inversion, i.e., Tauberian, theorems. In studying the best Tauberian conditions, to which he devoted a large part of his research, he reached his well-known definition of regularly varying function. Karamata conceived regularly varying functions only as a tool for studying Tauberian conditions, and he wrote just a few papers in the theory of regular variation. But the investigation of this topic was continued by his students and many others, especially after it was discovered that regularly varying functions have many applications in probability theory, the theory of distributions, analytic number theory and other fields. Nowadays, the literature on regular variation has become very large, and Karamata's name is most often connected with regular variation, as the content of the present volume confirms too.

Karamata was very active in *Publications de l'Institut Mathématique* from its very beginning. He published 19 of his papers in *Publications*. He was also a member of the Editorial Board, and in his time the journal was quite successful. It published papers by the best mathematicians of the time, and many of them dealt with questions raised by Karamata.

With this volume *Publications* pays a tribute to one of its founders. Serbian mathematics celebrates the centenary of one of its very best representatives.