

OBITUARY



1917 - 1994

Helena Rasiowa, professor at the University of Warsaw and Editor-in-Chief of *FUNDAMENTA INFORMATICA*E has passed away on the 9th of August of 1994. Her demise was the result of a long illness, which she fought against with all the courage and determination that were characteristic of her.

Her whole professional life had been connected with mathematics and the University of Warsaw. After studying at a music conservatory for three years, she finally fell for mathematics and registered as a student of that science at the University of Warsaw in 1938. During the war she continued her studies at the underground University, where she prepared her Master's thesis in 1944. It got burnt during the Warsaw Uprising that year and she herself spent a week buried in a cellar of a destroyed building. As soon as the war was over, she wrote a new Master's thesis under the supervision of Prof. Jan Łukasiewicz and obtained her M.Sc. degree in 1946. Four years later she made her Ph.D. degree with Prof. Andrzej Mostowski.

Descendant and member of the famous Polish school of logic, she directed her research to the application of algebraic methods in mathematical logic. Her results in this area have won a lasting place in the treasury of mathemati-

cal science. A pure mathematician as she was, she understood very quickly the significance of research on the applications of mathematical logic to computer science and of the influence that the latter science can have on logic. This is what she worked on during the last 20 years, publishing research papers and organizing seminars and research projects. This also led her to initiate the creation of FUNDAMENTA INFORMATICAЕ, a journal for international communication of researchers in theoretical computer science. As its Editor-in-Chief she was very active till the very end.

Prof. Rasiowa had been Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Warsaw for over 15 years and Head of the Chair of Mathematical Logic for over 20 years. She educated generations of students and researchers; in particular, she had supervised over 20 Ph.D. theses. Many of her students are full professors now. Her lectures were known not only to students in Warsaw, but also to mathematicians at the very many universities in Europe and the Americas to which she had been invited. And there are certainly very few logicians who have not gone through *The Mathematics of Metamathematics*, which she wrote with R. Sikorski, or through *An algebraic approach to non-classical logics*.

Always very active within the mathematical community, she had been vicepresident of the Polish Mathematical Society and president of its Warsaw branch, member of many academic and educational committees and boards. In the last period she contributed significantly to the foundation of the Polish Association for Logic and Philosophy of Science.

Many of us can consider ourselves her students. Many of us had worked with her. Many of us had extended our knowledge reading her books and very numerous research papers. Many of us try to emulate her integrity, her energy and her dedication to science.

We all mourn her.

Warsaw, September 1994

Editorial Board