

ON JAN KISYŃSKI

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When in 1958 I entered as a freshmen Maria Curie-Skłodowska University to study mathematics, I learned from my older colleagues about a very gifted and demanding teaching assistant, Jan Kisyński. His classes had opinion of being very difficult but challenging and inspiring. I did not have opportunity to check it myself. He already was moving to Warsaw.

We met next year, when I, by curiosity, attended the public defence of his Ph.D. thesis written under professor Adam Bielecki, who later on became also my supervisor. Being only a second year student, I was impressed by the event, even though I did not understand much. Few years later after my graduation and taking the position of teaching assistant, I was more lucky. Jan Kisyński had been invited back to Lublin to give a very special advanced course for young teaching assistants and others who wanted to attend. At the beginning of the academic year around fifteen people signed up for the course. The course confirmed what I had heard at the beginning. It was difficult, challenging and inspiring. Step by step some people were quitting. It happened that at the end of the year some class meetings were just looking like individual tutoring. There were only two of us. We became good colleagues and, I claim, this state continues up to this days. I learned a lot and I am till now grateful to Jan.

Next, in 1967 he was appointed as the referee for my Ph.D. His report on my work was very long, precise and contained a lot of advises instructing me how to extend, generalize and continue the research. It looked like he knew more than me about my subject.

It is difficult to remember and say how often we have met later. We attended seminars on mathematical analysis run in the Mathematical Institute of the Polish Academy of Science by a very strong group of leaders: J. Mikusiński, C. Ryll-Nardzewski, K. Maurin, B. Bojarski and others.

We took part in a series of winter conferences organized in mountains by J. Mikusiński. Besides mathematics there was a lot of skiing there. He was very experienced and skilful. I was a beginner and never reached a good level.

By contrast, my hobby was the high sea sailing. I invited once Jan to join me on a cruise on Baltic sea on a small boat. He did it once under my command. He was trying to be a good crew member but he never caught the sailing virus.

Dear Jan. On occasion of your anniversary please accept my best wishes of many happy returns to the day. Thank you for all our meetings, for all the influence on my professional life and all the friendly relations and discussions.

All the best.

Kazimierz Goebel

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