

[Florentin Smarandache, Octogon magazine celebrates 30 years of existence, Octogon Mathematical Magazine, Vol. 30, No. 1, pp. 25-26, April 2022.]

Octogon magazine celebrates 30 years of existence

Prof. Emeritus Florentin Smarandache

University of New Mexico, 705 Gurley Ave., Gallup, NM 87301, USA

Email: smarand@unm.edu

This year (2022) the Octogon magazine celebrates 30 years of existence, and is the continuation of Gamma magazine, which in May 1989 (after having continuously functioning between 1978-1989) was banned by the communist regime. I was part of the Gamma and Octogon editorial staff right from the start. This is a homage article, about what meant Gamma magazine during the communist era, and Octogon magazine for Romanian and universal mathematics. The Octogon was published first in Romanian and then in English, attracting an international audience and cooperation.

In the Fall of 1987 I have writing a note about Gamma [1, 2]:

This 1987 autumn there will mark a few years since the school math journal “Gamma” was founded at the “Steagul Roșu” College in Brașov, Romania, under the guidance of the good-hearted professor MIHAIL BENCZE, who has not spared any effort for it.

In the 28 numbers issued up to September 1987, the “Gamma” journal has encouraged over two thousands students in solving problems of mathematics, helping them prepare for scientific competitions, exams for grades and degrees for universities. Each year, the Editorial Office grants prizes and honorable mentions to the most hardworking pupils who solve problems.

The journal’s structure is classic. The wider space is dedicated to the original proposed problems of mathematics for grades 8-12 and college levels of computer science, up to present exceeding 7000, out of which we are sure that any time a bunch of very interesting problems, highly difficult, can be selected. We remember that some of those have already appeared in prestigious foreign journals – i.e. “American Mathematical Monthly”, “Mathematics Magazine”, etc. We also remember the over 80 open problems. Among which some may constitute topics of research for the mathematicians of tomorrow. Some elegant and ingenious problems are solved/resolved in the pages of this journal. The journal also contains problems translated from foreign magazines (“Kvant”, A. M. M.) or foreign collections, problems given at Olympiads of mathematics from other countries (Spain, Belgium, Tunisia, Morocco, etc.) as well as from our country (GMB, RMT, Matematikai Lapok) some with solutions or even with generalizations of problems from the magazines mentioned above. Also, over one hundred “Where is the fault? (in demonstrations)” notes of mathematics.

There have been over 130 papers for popularization of mathematics or matters concerning interdisciplinary, mathematics and other domains (physics, philosophy, psychology, etc.) or even of creation.

The column “Mini Mathematical History”, sustained with regularity by Prof. M. Bencze, schematically presented approximately 150 Romanian and foreign biographies of mathematicians.

Among the journal’s collaborators included (other than the students, who are the most numerous, because, in fact, it is their journal) are professors, engineers, computer science specialists, and university faculty. Many are recognized in their field of specialty. The foreign collaborators Dr. E. Grosswald, Dr. Leroy F. Meyers (U. S. A.), Prof. Francisco Bellot Rosado (Spain), are famous in the world of Mathematics.

Additionally, the Editorial Office sporadically published Mathematical Paradoxes, cross words, “Mathematical Poems”, and columns (such as “...did you know that...”), graphic themes and mottos (let us better call them, words of wisdom) of famous people.

Long Life in Mathematics!

References

[1] F. Smarandache, Jubilee of Gamma journal, Gamma, Brasov, Romania, XXIX-XXX, Anul X, 1-2, October 1987, pp. 7-8.

[2] F. Smarandache, Jubilee of Gamma journal, in Collected Papers, Vol. I, (first edition 1996, second edition 2007), Translated from Romanian and French into English by the author, pp. 177-178, ProQuest Information & Learning, Ann Arbor, MI, USA, <http://fs.unm.edu/CP1.pdf>.

12th March 2022