



In Memory

Mikhail Vladimirovich Saveliev

(17 October 1945 – 20 September 1998)

A seminar was held in Bonn in memory of Mikhail Vladimirovich Saveliev on 22 February 1999. This issue of the journal is based on materials from this seminar.

Foreword

Mikhail Vladimirovich Saveliev, a world-renowned specialist in nonlinear differential equations of mathematical physics and integrable systems, was expected to pay an extended visit to the Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik, Bonn, and to lead a seminar on the topics of complete integrability. His untimely death on 20 September 1998 put an end to these and many other creative plans he had.

A group of his friends and collaborators gathered on 22 February 1999 in Bonn to commemorate his work and personality.

The one-day seminar in memory of Misha Saveliev was organized at the Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik by Yu. I. Manin, M. A. Olshanetsky, and C. Devchand. Eight talks were presented. The speakers were J.-L. Gervais (ENS, Paris), D. I. Olive (Swansea), D. Leites (Stockholm), C. Devchand (MPIM), P. Sorba (LAPTH, Annecy), R. Kashaev (St. Petersburg), L. O’Raifeartaigh (DIAS, Dublin), and M. Olshanetsky (ITEP, Moscow/MPIM). This memorial volume includes the written versions of these talks and additional contributions by B. Shoikhet and A. Vershik (St. Petersburg), who also participated in the seminar, and by A. N. Leznov, A. M. Perelomov, V. Matveev and P. Topalov, and M. A. Vasiliev and O. V. Shaynkman.

Misha’s love for our métier, his deep contributions to it, his integrity and great human warmth left an indelible trace in the memory of all who had the privilege to work, to live, and to communicate with him.

*’Tis not the life of yearning sighs that makes me grieve,
For what are life and death? It is the fire
That once did fill the whole world with its light
And now, retreating into night, sheds bitter tears.¹*

Yu. I. Manin
Bonn, 19 May 1999

¹*Ne zhizn’i zhal’ s tomitel’nym dykhan’em — / Chto zhizn’ i smert’! A zhal’ togo ognya, / Chto prosiyal nad tselym mirozdan’em, / I v noch’ idet, i plachet, ukhodya.* A. A. Fet.



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