

Note to Editors - Dr Errett A Bishop, professor of mathematics died. Material attached are comments from Hubert Halkin, Burton Roodin and Stefan Warschawski

April 22, 1983

NOTE TO EDITORS

Dr. Errett A. Bishop, professor of mathematics at the University of California, San Diego and one of the nation's most eminent mathematicians, died Thursday, April 14, in his home in La Jolla after a brief illness.

Dr. Bishop was one of the first faculty members of the new Department of Mathematics at UCSD when he moved here in 1965 from UC Berkeley.

The attached material on Dr. Bishop was written by Dr. Hubert Halkin, chairman of the UCSD Department of Mathematics. In addition, there is also material from Dr. Burton Rodin and Dr. Stefan E. Warschawski, who worked with Dr. Bishop for many years at UCSD.

If you need any more information, please call me at 452-3120.

For more information contact Paul W. West, 452-3120

The University and this community have lost an outstanding leader in the field of mathematics.

Errett A. Bishop was born on July 14, 1928, in Newton, Kansas. He majored in mathematics at the University of Chicago where he received the bachelor's degree at the age of 19 and the master's degree at 21. From 1950 to 1952 he served in the U.S. Army performing mathematical research for the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C. He returned to the University of Chicago and was awarded the Ph.D. in mathematics in 1954. He then joined the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley. In 1965 he transferred from UC Berkeley to UCSD where he remained until his death on April 14, 1983.

During the period 1954-1964 Professor Bishop made significant advances in the area of mathematical analysis. There are theorems and methods which bear his name in the fields of function algebras, approximation theory and analytic functions of several complex variables. The great depth of his discoveries and remarkable originality of his thought brought him recognition as one of the world's leaders in this area of mathematics. Toward the end of this period his interests turned to the philosophical foundations of mathematics. He criticized formalism and the platonic notion of mathematical existence; he argued for distinguishing two kinds of mathematical existence—the first, when an integer is proved to exist because its nonexistence leads to a contradiction and the second, when an integer is proved to exist because a method is given for finding it in a finite number of steps. He successfully developed a large area of mathematical analysis on the constructive foundations he had created. This achievement, published as a book "Foundations of Constructive Analysis" (McGraw-Hill Book Co. 1967), fulfilled a major goal of the classical Intuitionist School of Mathematical Philosophy. It has set the stage for a revision of mathematics and continues to stimulate debate on its implications.

Professor Bishop was awarded the U.S. Army Commendation Ribbon with Pendant for Mathematical Research on Ordnance (1952). He was a Sloan Foundation Fellow (1958-1961); a member and grantee of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (1961-1962); a member of the Miller Institute for Basic Research, UC Berkeley (1964-1965); Hedrick Lecturer of the Mathematical Association of America (1969); Invited Speaker for the International Congress of Mathematicians, Moscow, USSR (1966); a member of the National Research Council (1967-1970); a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1969); Principal Speaker for the Tenth Holiday Mathematics Symposium, New Mexico (1972); Colloquium Lecturer, American Mathematical Society (1973).

Professor Bishop is survived by his wife, Jane Ashton Bishop of La Jolla; his daughter, Rosemary Helen Bishop, a student at Boalt Hall School of Law, Berkeley; son Edward Errett Bishop, a student at UC Santa Cruz; son Thomas Eugene Bishop of La Jolla; and his mother, Helen Marguerite Bishop of La Jolla.

Dr. Hubert Halkin, Chairman UCSD Department of Mathematics

His mathematical investigations were very deep and very central. Although many researchers were sorry to see him turn his attention from mathematics to philosophy, I think his philosophical contributions have turned out to be as important as his mathematical ones.

Dr. Burton Rodin, Professor UCSD Department of Mathematics

With the passing of Errett Bishop the mathematical world and our university have lost an outstanding member. I recall vividly the rejoicing among my colleagues in our young mathematics department in the spring of 1965 at the news that Errett Bishop had decided to accept our invitation to join UCSD. For even at that time Professor Bishop had already established himself as an eminent mathematician of international reputation, and his coming to La Jolla added immensely to the prestige of our department and the new UC campus in San Diego. He was a leader in research, stimulating to his colleagues and graduate students, and a humane and dedicated teacher. He gave a great deal of thought to undergraduate education and was particularly concerned with our teaching of freshmen. He handled complex mathematical ideas with such clarity and ease that it was a great pleasure to hear him lecture. His mathematical achievements will have a profound influence in the future. Mathematical science mourns the loss of one of its brilliant contributors; Errett's colleagues mourn the loss of a compassionate and sincere friend.

Dr. Stefan Warschawski Professor Emeritus UCSD Department of Mathematics

(April 22, 1983)