

IV International Conference “Groups and Group Rings”.

The tradition of organizing annual conferences on group and group rings started in Gliwice in 1992. The first conference was a result of scientific contacts between the Institute of Mathematics of Silesian Technical University and Warsaw University. It was organized in Silesian Technical University in Gliwice in September 29–30, 1992 and had only Polish participants from Białystok, Gliwice and Warsaw.

On the base of that experience the First International Conference “Groups and Group Rings” was organized in Gliwice during 21–24.09.1993. It had participants from Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary and Russia. The main speakers were: Z.I. Borevich (Russia), C. Baginski (Poland), V. Bovdi (Hungary), U. Kaljuland (Estonia), J. Krempa (Poland).

In 20–23.09.1994 the Second International Conference “Groups and Group Rings” was organized by the Institute of Mathematics of Silesian Technical University in Gliwice and had 35 participants, including participants from England, Germany, Hungary, Canada, Russia, Scotland, Ukraine. The main speakers were: S. Andreadakis (Greece), Z.I. Borevich (Russia), V. Bovdi (Hungary), E. Jespers (Canada), A.Yu. Olshansky (Russia), E.F. Robertson (Scotland), A.L. Shmelkin (Russia), R. Stoehr (England), V. Sushchanskyi (Ukraine). One afternoon was devoted to visiting the Museum in Auschwitz.

During 5–8.09.1995 the Third International Conference “Groups and Group Rings”, again in Gliwice, had 37 participants. The main speakers among others were: A.A. Bovdi (Hungary), C.M. Campbell (Scotland), C.K. Gupta (Canada), N.D. Gupta (Canada), H. Heineken (Germany), S. Mishovsky (Bulgaria), L.A. Shemetkov (Belorus), V. Sushchanskyi (Ukraine). A cultural program included an excursion to the Palace at Pszczyna.

The main value of these conferences is the possibility of scientific contacts of algebraists from the East and the West. The geographical placement of Gliwice gives advantages in cutting expenses for attending the conference. Organisers also reserved some funds to support the participants from the former soviet republics. This makes the conference accessible to many people, especially to young research workers.

In 17–21.09.1996 The Fourth International Conference “Groups and Group Rings” was organized in the city Velykyi Lublin’ (Lviv region, Ukraine) by Lviv State University, Kyiv State University, and Institute of Mathematics of Silesian Technical University. The conference had 56 participants from Hungary, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine. The organizing committee included Yu.A. Drozd (Chairman), M.Ya. Komarnyts’kyi (Vice-Chairman), V.I. Sushchanskyi (Vice-Chairman), M.M. Zarichnyi (Vice-Chairman), O.D. Artemovych, A.A. Bovdi, V.V. Kirichenko, J. Krempa, O. Macedonska, Ya.H. Prytula. The main speakers were: R.I. Grigorichuk (Moscow, Russia, Main Speaker), P.M. Gudyvok (Uzhgorod, Ukraine), Jan Krempa (Warsaw, Poland), Ya. Sysak (Kyiv, Ukraine), M.Ya. Komarnytskyi (Lviv, Ukraine), V.M. Usenko (Slovyansk, Ukraine).

Your researches actively participated in the work of the conference.

The conference was organized in a picturesque place, on the base of the oldest sanatorium in Ukraine. A cultural program included 6-hour excursion to Lviv.