RAIMO NÄKKI: *IN MEMORIAM*

TAPANI KUUSALO

Professor Raimo Näkki passed away unexpectedly on September 14th, 2019 while on a lecturing tour in the ancient Thai city Nakhon Pathom. He was 72 years old. As a student of Jussi Väisälä he was an early member of the Gehring - Väisälä school of space mappings, defending his thesis on the boundary behaviour of quasiconformal mappings in 1970. Of his later works should be mentioned a large article on prime ends in Journal d'Analyse Mathématique 35 (1979) as well as a study of John disks in Monatshefte für Mathematik 117 (1994, together with M. Ghamsari and J. Väisälä) where e.g. the following nice generalization of the Beurling - Ahlfors extension theorem is obtained: If a homeomorphism $f : D \to D'$ of two closed John disks D and D' is quasisymmetric on the boundary ∂D, there exists a quasiconformal mapping g of the whole plane such that f and g agree on ∂D.

Näkki began his long career at the University of Jyväskylä in 1974 as an associated professor, retiring in 2014. A most popular lecturer in Jyväskylä, he worked on several occasions in the seventies and eighties as a visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin, altogether for almost four years. In the nineties Näkki was asked to give lecture courses at the Silpakorn University in Thailand, which he did quite regularly until this fall. He was also invited to join the editorial board of the university's scientific journal SEHS, which shows the appreciation he had received at Silpakorn.

Raimo Näkki was quite a precocious mathematician. He defended his thesis before his 24th birthday, and already the year before he was one of the five invited Finnish speakers at the Romanian-Finnish Seminar on Teichmüller Spaces and Quasiconformal Mappings in Braşov. He came from a small country borough Orimattila in southern Finland. As it happens, Näkki is not the only mathematician who has his roots there: the mother of Lars Ahlfors was born in Orimattila. Raimo was a steadfast colleague who preserved his youthfulness to the end. We deeply miss him.

Tapani Kuusalo
University of Jyväskylä
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Jyväskylä, Finland
`tapani.j.kuusalo@jyu.fi`