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IN PLACE OF A FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

You now hold in your hands the book dedicated to the memory of Professor Andrzej Lasota.

Professor Andrzej Lasota was a great mathematician and an exceptional man. Anyone who met him could not remain indifferent. He exerted a great influence on those who had the honor and pleasure to work with him. According to one of the leading American specialists, James A. Yorke, Professor Lasota's approach to probabilistic treatment of dynamical systems "was adopted by the Berkeley school of dynamics and became one of the foundations of nonlinear dynamics."

In recognition of his achievements he received many awards, including a Władysław Orlicz medal, a Waław Sierpiński medal, the Honorary Membership of the Polish Mathematical Society (of which he was also an ordinary member). He was also a full member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He was invited to give a talk on an International Congress of Mathematicians, which took place in 1983 in Warsaw. By a decree of May 22, 2001, Senate of the University of Silesia bestowed on Professor Andrzej Lasota the title of Doctor honoris causa of the University of Silesia.

To honor his memory, since 2008 the University of Silesia has been holding commemorative lectures. Three booklets about him have also been published. I have the honor and pleasure of being the organizer of those lectures and the author of those booklets. This year, 2016, on the tenth anniversary of Professor's passing away, we present you with this book devoted to His memory.

The book consists of three parts. It begins with the Professor's biography, illustrated by numerous pictures. Part two contains reprints of texts and interviews with Professor Lasota. Part three consists of recollections of Professor Andrzej Lasota, written by his family, friends, colleagues, collaborators and students.

This book could not have been written without the support and help of many people that I would like to acknowledge here.

First I want to thank Professor Andrzej Lasota's family, particularly his daughters: Barbara, Hanna and Natalia, who reacted enthusiastically to the idea of writing this book and have been supporting me in this decision from the beginning. They included their own memories, depicting Professor Andrzej Lasota's private, family side. I thank them dearly for agreeing to publish Professor's pictures and making many of them available.

I thank friends, colleagues, collaborators and students of Professor Andrzej Lasota for the memories, warm words and kind support to this project. The memories written by them brought me smiles and tears. I sent a proposal to write a few words to everyone who has ever had an extended, personal contact with Professor Lasota. I am very glad that so many of them decided to include their memories in the book. My heartfelt thanks to those who agreed to reprint their interviews with Professor Andrzej Lasota. I want to thank the translators, Doctor Piotr W. Cholewa and Doctor Mateusz Jurczyński, and Doctor Gabriela Marszołek for valuable linguistic input.

Among Professor Andrzej Lasota's friends it is impossible not to mention one person, who has supported me with advice and kind words from the beginning, supported in making contacts when needed and took care for the articles to appear on time: Professor Michael C. Mackey. I want to express my deepest gratitude.

From the beginning, the book was supposed to be available free of charge and it was possible thanks to many people I am grateful. All the authors, without a moment's hesitation, waived their payment. Many institutions sponsored publishing costs of this book – in such form and print run. Of them, I owe special thanks to: Professor Andrzej Kowalczyk, Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Silesia in Katowice, Professor Alicja Ratuszna, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry of the University of Silesia in Katowice, Professor Maciej Sablik, Head of the Institute of Mathematics of the University of Silesia in Katowice, Professor Łukasz Stettner, Head of the Mathematical Center for Science and Technology, Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Feliks Przytycki, Head of the Institute of Mathematics, Polish Academy of Sciences, and Doctor Kazimierz Dębowski, CEO of the board of the Noma 2 company. They have my deep gratitude.

The publishing of a book is not only a great joy, but also difficult editing work spanning many months – from the idea and the creation of the first concept to its final form, including general editing throughout. It is the ideas and turning them into reality, it is the process of collecting many different materials and putting them together in a coherent way. These tasks were undertaken wholly by Ms. Joanna Zwierzyńska, to whom I remain in debt.

Professor Andrzej Lasota was my Mentor and Friend. It is a great joy to me to give you this book and I hope it will evoke you as profound emotions as it has brought me.

Henryk Gacki