



Yozō MATSUSHIMA

Reprinted with the permission of Birkhäuser Boston, Inc.
Progress in Mathematics, Volume 14
Manifolds and Lie Groups: Papers in honor of Yozō Matsushima, 1981

YOZÔ MATSUSHIMA

1921–1983

On April 9, 1983, Yozô Matsushima, professor of Osaka University, succumbed to pneumonia in Osaka at the age of 62 years. His premature death produced no small effect among his colleagues and friends, and thus we would like to recall here the history of his life as it relates to the mathematical community.

Born on February 11, 1921 in Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture, he received his early education at the former Naniwa High School. In September 1942, he received his Bachelor of Science in mathematics from Osaka Imperial University and immediately became an assistant in the Faculty of Science at the then newly established Nagoya Imperial University. Thus began his career as a mathematician.

Within a short time, he was promoted to associate professor and in 1953 to full professor at Nagoya University. In the spring of 1960, he became a professor of Osaka University as successor to the chair of the late Kenjirô Shoda, who had been his former teacher and was at that time president of Osaka University. During his professorship there, he was instrumental in organizing the mathematics department. Also at his suggestion and through his help, the Osaka Mathematical Journal and the Journal of Mathematics, Osaka City University, were combined within a single publication, the Osaka Journal of Mathematics.

In September of 1966, he became professor at the University of Notre Dame, in Notre Dame, Indiana in the U.S. and remained so for fourteen years. In the summer of 1980, he returned to the Faculty of Science at Osaka University.

Before going to Notre Dame, Matsushima had been recognized not only in Japan, but also abroad, as is evidenced in the following events. In September of 1954, he spent one year in France, at the Universities of Strasbourg and of Paris, where he had been invited by C.N.R.S. From September of 1962, he studied for one year at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. In the fall of 1965 he returned to France where he was visiting professor at the University of Grenoble for one year. In the summer of 1965, he organized the U.S.-Japan Seminar on Differential Geometry together with Kentarô Yano and Katsumi Nomizu at the Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences at Kyoto University. This was the first international congress in Japan for geometers, and eleven mathematicians from the United States participated.

In 1962, Matsushima received the coveted Asahi Prize for his "Research of Continuous Groups". In 1967 he became a member of the first editorial board of the then newly established Journal of Differential Geometry and remained one of its editors throughout his lifetime. In May of 1980, prior to Matsushima's return to Osaka University, some fifty of his colleagues, former and present, showed their appreciation and respect for him by their participation in a conference in geometry held in his honor at the University of Notre Dame. In honor of his sixtieth birthday in February of 1981, a volume of papers was dedicated to Matsushima. Besides those papers written by his former students and colleagues especially for this occasion, some of the works presented at the above mentioned conference were also included in the volume which is entitled "Manifolds and Lie Groups, Papers in Honor of Yozô Matsushima", edited by J. Hano et al. and published by Birkhäuser.

As is outlined comprehensively in the following article generously contributed by Professor Shoshichi Kobayashi, in Matsushima's many mathematical works the emphasis is on the theory of Lie groups and manifolds. His works on these theories and on related topics such as discrete groups, unitary representations, and functions of several complex variables have already proven to be valuable references in many current papers.

Matsushima's love for mathematics is evidenced by the discipline and diligence he consistently applied to his research. He was a man whose concern lay not only in mathematics, but he had a keen interest in human nature and a constant curiosity about the world that resulted in his being an avid reader of a variety of books and a most interesting conversationalist. His friends and colleagues will miss not only his mathematical talent, but the warmth and cynical humour which lay behind his outwardly serious countenance.

Shingo MURAKAMI