



BIOGRAPHY OF WOLFGANG JOSEPH THRON
(1918–2001)

Wolfgang Joseph Thron (or “Wolf” to his friends) was a mathematical scholar, educator and researcher in classical analysis, topology and history of mathematics. For more than half a century he served as an advisor, mentor and role model for students and colleagues and he devoted much of his life promoting cooperation and mathematical collaboration among university faculties and students in the United States, Germany, India, Norway and the Philippines. Wolf died of emphysema at his home in Boulder, Colorado on August 21, 2001. He was eighty-three years old.

Wolf Thron was the younger of two children of Ludwig and Annemarie Joseph Thron, born on August 17, 1918, in Ribnitz, Germany. He grew up in an old “doctors’ house” where his father and grandfather jointly worked in an extended small town medical practice. Receiving a classical education at the Gymnasium in the major port city Rostock, he acquired a life-long interest in history as well as mathematics. His summers in these years were used for international experiences such as hiking in the Austrian Alps, traveling in Italy and sailing a two-mast schooner to England, Sweden and Denmark.