



## VASIL VALDEMAROV TSANOV

### OBITUARY

*Bulgarian mathematician Vasil Valdemarov Tsanov passed away on 31.7.2017 at his home in Sofia. The following are reminiscences by some of his friends.*

#### Ulf Persson: Prelude in Bucharest



The first time I met Vasil Tsanov was at a conference arranged by Lucian Badescu in Bucharest in the summer of 1983. This was at a time when Ceausescu still was in power, and at his worst megalomaniac to boot, the most innocent aspect of which was that his faded portraits hung in every lecture room. Vasil's appearance, on the other hand, was not faded. Rather short of stature, with a goatee and already balding at thirty-five made him look a bit like a classical revolutionary, but also older than he actually was. However, this was a fact which when conscripted worked to his advantage, he would later tell me. His fellow conscripts suspected that he had been to jail, which lent him a prestige he may have been reluctant to disavow. I took to

him immediately, on one hand touched by his warm and gentle manner, on the other hand fascinated by his sarcasm, which was anything but gentle. He was one of those who 'cut the crap' and had little patience for the usual 'cant' which tends to dominate the opinions of those anxious to please and not thinking for themselves. That he would be a man of strong principles and integrity with which he would not be willing to compromise I could not have known on such a brief acquaintance, but which I may have intuited. Admirable qualities but when pursued consistently, not