from Quine, Church had me do some reviewing for the *Journal for Symbolic Logic.*

For me it was an exciting period in my young life. The Institute for Advanced study was still in Fine Hall, leading to close personal contact with v[on] Neumann and Gödel, for example.

The Editor

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UCLA PHILOSOPHER, MATHEMATICIAN

ALONZO CHURCH

DEAD AT 92

(Forwarded from: Kaplan, David)

Alonzo Church, one of the great philosophers and mathematicians of the 20th century, died Aug. 11 at the age of 92.

"Alonzo Church was one of the very few scholars of his time about whom we can be certain that his name and his work will still be known 200 years from now," said David Kaplan, professor of philosophy at UCLA. "All of us, faculty as well as students, learned from him. My own research has been profoundly affected by his work.

"The rigor of his intellect was awe-inspiring" Kaplan added. "Yet despite his awesome intellect, he was always good-humored and patient with students."

Church came to UCLA at the age of 64, after he had retired from Princeton University, where he had been since his undergraduate days in the 1920s. He began teaching in 1929 as an assistant professor of mathematics and philosophy at Princeton. He left in 1967 because he was approaching that university's mandatory retirement age. "I did not

want to be forced to retire at an arbitrary age," he told a reporter in 1983. Church joined UCLA's faculty in 1967.

At UCLA, Church was appointed to an endowed chair, becoming the Mr. and Mrs. C.N. Flint Professor of Philosophy. He retired in 1990.

He published his first scholarly article in the field of mathematical logic in 1924 and his last earlier this year.

Church answered questions that have challenged other philosophers and mathematicians for generations. He addressed some of the most difficult theoretical questions in mathematics or philosophy, many of which he himself raised.

While Church has been considered a legend for decades, it wasn't always so.

Mathematical logic, a mathematical study of formal systems of reasoning, was "disapproved of by both mathematicians and philosophers in this country, who thought the field was not of real importance," Church recalled shortly before his 80th birthday.

Almost single-handedly, he raised the prestige of mathematical logic through his intense involvement with the *Journal of Symbolic Logic*. In 1936, Church became the journal's first editor, reading every word in every issue because of the pressure he felt to "have everything right." He remained editor until 1979, and continued his research and teaching throughout.

Today logic is taught in virtually every philosophy and mathematics department in the country, and every single area of modern logic has been influenced by Church's work, Kaplan said.

Church's legacy will continue because many of today's best professors in mathematical logic and the philosophy of mathematics earned their Ph.D.s under his guidance, said Robert Yost, a professor emeritus of philosophy at UCLA. The list of Church's doctoral students reads like a virtual who's who of modern logic and computer science.

Among the many awards that Church received were his election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1967 and his election to the National Academy of Sciences, and to the British Academy, both in 1978.

He was the first scholar to articulate the principle known as Church's Thesis, which was highly controversial at the time, but is now widely accepted. (The thesis, which holds that every calculable number-theoretic function is recursive, connects computational aspects of mathematics to the abstract.) His other discoveries include Church's Theorem, which plays a role in modern computer science that has been

described as analogous to the role of the second law of thermodynamics in engineering.

Yost said that Church read everything and forgot nothing. When asked what made Church a world-class scholar, Yost had a remarkably simple answer: "He was just smarter than anybody else."

Church is survived by his children, Alonzo Church Jr, Mary Ann Addison, and Mildred Dandridge, eight grandchildren and two great-grand-children. Mary Julia Kuczinski, his wife of 50 years, died in 1976.

In lieu of flowers, his family requests that contributions may be made to the Association for Symbolic Logic, 1409 West Green Street, Urbana, IL, 61801, and noted to the Alonzo Church Fund.