Helmut H. Schaefer (1925–2005)

Positivity

HELMUT H. SCHAEFER (1925 – 2005) was one of the leading figures in creating a systematic theory of positivity within the burgeoning field of functional analysis. He leaves behind a mathematical opus of impeccable beauty and great depth in which, among other things, he transferred the classical Perron-Frobenius theory of positive matrices into modern infinite-dimensional analysis.

Although he started his career in non-linear analysis with investigations culminating in the fixed point theorem which now carries his name, he soon got attracted by the work of Bourbaki with its focus on structures and symmetry and turned his attention to abstract (linear) functional analysis. In addition to numerous articles in leading journals, his two major monographs "Topological Vector Spaces" and "Banach Lattices and Positive Operators" bear witness to his mastery and have become classics.

Helmut Schaefer had a unique ability to combine the organized, concise, and rigorous style a la Bourbaki with linguistic finesse and a healthy amount of pragmatism. He was a charismatic personality who inspired many students.

The present issue of POSITIVITY is dedicated with gratitude and admiration to his memory.

Wolfgang Arendt, Rainer Nagel and Manfred Wolff