

In memory of Prof. J. Nečas

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The Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists associates university and high-school teachers, researchers and students. From the very beginning, among members of the society there were the most distinguished Czech mathematicians and physicists who promoted high level of research and education in these fields. As a member of the society I am proud to claim that Prof. Jindřich Nečas was one of them. Although not involved in official leadership of the society, he had a tremendous impact on the Czech mathematical community.

Everybody who got in contact with Prof. Nečas will remember him forever. He was a kind and friendly man, wonderful companion, excellent singer. He was a ravishing, witty, provoking teacher who would not let students and colleagues calm.

Let me recall two memories. My very first consultation with Prof. Nečas was about my diploma theses. He provided me with a lot of hints and ideas, everything looked clear, I returned home with the idea that everything is simple, just to put it on a sheet of paper. However, when I read my notes, I realized that I could not understand it at all. Like in the classical fairy tale, the obtained gold turned into stones during my return home. But then I started to work hard on it and step by step realized where the gold was hidden.

The other memory is related to the famous Seminar on partial differential equations which has been held for decades every Tuesday morning in the Mathematical Institute AS CR. Actually, nobody would call it in this way. Everybody spoke simply about the Nečas' seminar. This has been a prestigious seminar for both us and our guests. Every important visitor dealing with the topic had to speak there. Prof. Nečas used to comment a lot – there was silence only exceptionally and it meant that the lecture was not interesting at all. A rather typical would be that Prof. Nečas turned to the present young students and colleagues saying: „Look, there is a lot of work for a Doctor of Science thesis or for several PhD theses.“ I remember one very sharp and I think quite characteristic comment: „There are many absolutely correct papers which do not bring much new. On the other hand, there exist papers which contain serious blunders but are extremely important because initiate new theories.“