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A Few Words About Daniel W. Stroock

Daniel W. Stroock is a renowned mathematician, famous for contributions to stochastic analysis, with keen interests in mathematical problems of statistical mechanics. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, as well as a member of Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (whose membership among others, included famous contributors to modern mathematics M. Smoluchowski, S. Banach and H.Steinhaus).

He is closely connected to other worldwide known science heros, having Erdös Number 2; Kac Number- 3; Einstein Number - 4; Banach Number - 5;...

A great connoisseur of „beautiful minds", he admires John Nash, Paul Malliavin and Roland Dobrushin („a man of category of Mozart" as he once said, hoping that MIT would create a position for him), ...

His office at MIT had always a perfect stochastic ordering, with many papers around mixed with coffee and a beautiful tiny proper blackboard on the wall - a great environment for a mathematician.

He wrote a series of interesting books on mathematics, sometimes saying in the introduction „to those who...ask for whom was this book was written, my pale answer is me". Writing them he was using with great enjoyment and pride the AMS-TeX with complicated Fractur-Euler fonts, very soon after they were invented.

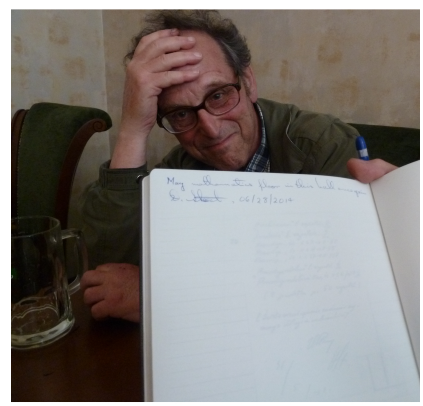
For many years he loved modern English theatre in London (whether a colorful *Hysteria* on meeting between Salvador Dali and Sigmund Freud, or *Copenhagen* on a meeting between the physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg).

A master of black and white photography, he always prefers to capture people rather than still life. He enjoys visits to the National Portrait Gallery in London (asking difficult questions such as „why is some famous British mathematician who contributed so enormously during WW2 is not there?").

He enjoys his lovely dogs in Massachusetts and rides Arab horses, (who are "Polish Arabians"), in Colorado.

Many years before he became the first holder of the second Simons Professorship of Mathematics, he expressed a wish to explore intellectual spheres far beyond mathematics. He has a deep interest in modern and not so modern history. Having a great sense of history, he has sharp views about big and small countries doing injustice to others.

On the occasion of the 100$^{\text{th}}$ anniversary of birthday of Mark Kac, he delivered a lecture at Jagiellonian Aula in Collegium Maius during an Evening of History of Science, (of Institute of Mathematics, Jagiellonian University, organised by D. Bakry, S. Peszat i B. Zegarlinski). During his short visit to Krakow, Daniel Stroock, as a foreign member of Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, for the first time had a pleasure to visit its headquarters on the Sławkowska street, where he was greeted by President of the Academy Professor Andrzej Białas. His journey to Europe was also an opportunity to visit the grave of Stefan Banach and the newly reopened Scottish Café in Lvov. He made an inscription into the (Polish copy of the) Scottish Book - the famous book of mathematical problems.



If you would like to know what he wrote, go there and see.

References

[1] R. D. Mauldin, editor. *The Scottish Book.* Birkhäuser, Boston, Mass., 1981. Mathematics from the Scottish Café, Including selected papers presented at the Scottish Book Conference held at North Texas State University, Denton, Tex., May 1979. MR 666400; Zbl 0485.01013; doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-22897-6.

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