In Memoriam

ROBERT GARDNER BARTLE (1927 - 2003)

Robert G. Bartle, distinguished mathematician, educator and author, died on September 18 at his home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he has resided since 1986. The cause of death was mantel cell lymphoma. He is survived by his wife of twenty-one years, Carolyn Bloemker Bartle, and his two sons from a previous marriage: James, who is General Counsel for the Kansas Department of Revenue, and John, an Associate Professor of Public Administration at the University of Nebraska in Omaha. There are five grandchildren.

Bob Bartle was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 20, 1927. He obtained his undergraduate education at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, graduating with Highest Honors and Phi Beta Kappa in 1947. He pursued graduate studies at the University of Chicago and was awarded the Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1951. His doctoral thesis was directed by Professor Lawrence Graves.

He spent the years 1951-1955 at Yale University, the first year as a postdoctoral fellow of the Atomic Energy Commission. He participated in a project that resulted in the 3volume, 2592 page treatise Linear Operators, under the authorship of Nelson Dunford and Jacob Schwartz with elaborate notes and remarks written by William Bade and Robert Bartle. The volumes were published in 1958, 1963 and 1971. It is the standard reference in its field and was awarded the AMS Steele Prize in 1981.

In 1955, he joined the faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was an outstanding teacher, pursued research in the theory of linear operators, real analysis and integration theory, and served on numerous committees. He was Acting Head of the Department of Mathematics in 1971 and Associate Head in 1979-1980. He traveled extensively and was a Visiting Professor at the University of California at Berkeley (1961-62), Cambridge University in England (1968-69), the Romanian Academy at the Institute of Mathematics in Bucharest (spring, 1974, and summer, 1980), Georgia Institute of Technology (1975-76), and Imperial College, University of London (fall, 1983). In addition, he lectured in over a dozen countries. He traveled to India to work on educational projects in 1968, 1970 and 1973.

Professor Bartle's strong interest in the writing and communicating of mathematics led to a distinguished career as editor and author. From his classroom teaching to his published books, he was noted for clarity and elegance of style. He directed the dissertations of fifteen doctoral students, all of whom learned to write as well as create mathematics. He served as managing editor of the Illinois Journal of Mathematics in the years 1964-69 and again in 1985-86. In 1976-78 he served as Executive Editor of Mathematical Reviews, with editorial offices in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He returned to that position in the years 1986-90. Professor Bartle retired from the University of Illinois in 1990 and

accepted a teaching position at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti where he remained active in teaching and writing for a number of years.

He wrote many scholarly papers in mathematics, but his exceptional talent for writing is most apparent in his books. His first book, The Elements of Real Analysis, was published in 1964 and the second edition in 1976. It was translated into Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. The Elements of Integration was published in 1966. Calculus, coauthored with C. Ionescu Tulcea, appeared in 1968, followed by Honors Calculus in 1970. Introduction to Real Analysis, with coauthor Donald R. Sherbert, was first published in 1982, followed by a Spanish translation, and the third edition appeared in the year 2000. His 1996 award winning paper, Return to the Riemann Integral, appeared in the American Mathematical Monthly. His final book, A Modern Theory of Integration, is a 458-page treatment of the Henstock integral published in the Graduate Studies in Mathematics series by the AMS in 2001.

Along with his talents as a mathematician and writer, Bob Bartle was a warm and generous person with a marvelous sense of humor. He played the French horn and loved the singing and grandeur of opera. He was always happy to help a colleague, encourage a student, and give time to a friend. His family and his many friends around the world will miss him deeply.