

CONFERENCE REPORT

IRISH MECHANICS GROUP CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, 19th December last, some thirty Applied Mathematicians and Mechanicians from Ireland, both North and South, together with some colleagues from England and the United States, participated in a one-day Conference held at the School of Theoretical Physics, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. The Conference, organised by the Irish Mechanics Group in collaboration with the School of Theoretical Physics, had as its theme "Modern Developments in Mechanics", and was arranged specifically in honour of, and to pay tribute to, Professor Patrick M. Quinlan, B.E., M.Sc., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.I.E.I., M.R.I.A., of the Department of Mathematical Physics, University College, Cork, on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday.

The very broad range of topics presented by the seven scheduled speakers at the Conference was, in a way, a tribute to, and representative of, the breadth and depth of the contribution made by Professor Quinlan to the knowledge, understanding and useage of Applied Mathematics and Mechanics here in Ireland, and abroad - not to mention his commitment to and significant involvement in the political and social life of this country over a career as an academic and politician spanning the last forty or so years.

The papers presented to the Meeting ranged from reports on work done by A.D. Norris of Exxon Research, U.S.A., on "Effective Moduli of Composites", through "Numerical Methods in Fracture" by A.P. Parker of North Staffordshire Polytechnic. A.B. Tayler from Oxford addressed the Meeting on "Resonance in a Gear Box" and there then followed a series of papers, all by former students and colleagues of Professor Quinlan. P.F. Hodnett of the National Institute for Higher Education, Limerick, presented a paper on "Computer-Aided Design of Air-Journal Bearings", and J.N. Flavin of University College Galway spoke

on "St Venant's Principle". M.F. McCarthy, also of University College Galway, was scheduled to speak on some recent work done by him on "Scattering by Circular Disks", but, due to family illness, the Meeting was unfortunately deprived of his presentation. No such Conference to honour Professor Quinlan would have been complete without at least some reference to his Edge-Function Method, and this need was admirably met by a presentation by J.J. Grannell of University College Cork on "Progress on the Edge-Function Method", to end the Conference.

Each speaker, in his own unique way, paid tribute to Professor (Paddy) Quinlan and dedicated his paper to honour him of this special occasion. The very interesting results of, and insights into, the recent developments of the speakers' works, together with the congenial atmosphere and excellent Conference facilities afforded by the School of Theoretical Physics, made for a very stimulating and successful Conference.

Later that evening, a celebration dinner in Broc House to honour Paddy and his wife Jane was attended by the Conference participants, together with some former students of Paddy's. After the delightful repast, a further fifteen or so colleagues from the Universities and Higher Institutes joined the group to personally honour Paddy. Jim Flavin of Galway, a former student and close colleague of his, regaled the gathering with a summary of Paddy's career - often with Jim's uniquely humourous anecdotes - and in a most suitable and appropriate manner honoured Paddy on behalf of those present as well as the many former students and friends who had expressed a desire to be associated with the event, but could not themselves be present. A presentation was then made to Paddy and Jane of a piece of Beleek china and an inscribed watercolour print of University College Cork, made in the early days of what was then Queen's College, Cork, with which Paddy has had for so long and continues still to have a deep affectionate association and to the life of which he has made such

a significant and unique contribution.

Michael J.A. O'Callaghan

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRITISH MATHEMATICAL COLLOQUIUM

The 37th British Mathematical Colloquium will be held in the University of Cambridge on 2nd, 3rd and 4th April 1985. The principal speakers will be D. Zagier (Bonn), C.L. Feffermann (Princeton), and M. Gromov (Paris).

Speakers from the U.K. include T.O. Hawkes, E.C. Lance, M. Rees, A.D. Gardiner, C.R. Leedham-Green, K.J. Falconer, R.A. Bailey, W. Parry, D.B.A. Epstein, B. Birch, J.M. Hammsley, M. Paterson, R. Brown, J.S. Pym and C. Hooley.

There will be a discussion of Information Technology presented by C.A.R. Hoare, F.R.S., and a display of Computer-Aided Teaching of Applied Mathematics.

The registration fee is £12 for those paying their bill in full by January 31st, 1985; thereafter the fee is £18. For research students of no more than 3 years standing these amounts are halved. The cost of accommodation and meals for the full period is £108.

Application forms and further information are available from the Colloquium secretary, Dr R.C. Mason, Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, 16 Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 1SB.

REPRESENTATIONS OF ALGEBRAS

There will be a Symposium on Representations of Algebras at Durham University from 15 July to 25 July 1985. Principal lecturers will be J.L. Alperin (Chicago), M. Auslander (Brandeis), D.J. Benson (Northwestern), P. Gabriel (Zurich), H. Knörrer (Bonn), H. Kraft (Basel), C.M. Ringel (Bielefeld), A.V. Roiter (Kiev).