

OTTO SZÁSZ

On September 19, 1952, Otto Szász, Professor at the University of Cincinnati, died in his 68th year. Szász was a native of Hungary, studied in Budapest, Göttingen, Munich and Paris, and received his Ph.D. degree at the University of Budapest in 1911. He was Privatdozent (later with the title of a professor) at the University of Frankfurt, Germany, from 1914 until 1933. He was also Privatdozent at the University of Budapest. In 1933 he came to the United States, first to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Brown University and in 1936 to the University of Cincinnati where he resided until his death. The only interruption of his stay at this university was a year spent with the Institute of Numerical Analysis at the University of California in Los Angeles. In 1930 Szász received the Julius König prize of the Hungarian Mathematical and Physical Society. He was a member of the American Mathematical Society and of the Mathematical Association of America.

The life of Szász was spent in deep devotion to mathematical study, research and teaching. His steady preoccupation with mathematics, his erudition and broad knowledge of classical and contemporary literature and his perseverance in dealing with open problems of a number of varied fields have secured a firm place for him in the mathematical life of Hungary, Germany and of the United States. He inspired many young persons and collaborated with numerous mature mathematicians. He maintained warm and mathematically fruitful relations with such great personalities as Fejér, Landau, Perron, Pringsheim and I. Schur. The short résumé of his most important accomplishments to be given below reflects these relationships.

We can distinguish various periods in the work of Szász. Economy of space compels us to quote (by numbers in brackets) only a few of his papers enumerated at the end of this note.

1. **Continued fractions.** The work of Szász in this direction deals with convergence questions [5; 8] generalizing certain results of Perron. Another paper deals with the special case of continued fractions of the Stieltjes-A. Markov type [2] answering a conjecture of Perron. Finally [1] is concerned with the irrational character of certain continued fractions.

2. **Approximations** [3; 6]. These contributions are related to the famous problem of S. Bernstein solved by Ch. H. Müntz about the completeness of a set of powers x^{p_n} in a finite positive interval.