NIKOLA OBRESHKOFF (1896–1963)

On April 19 and 20, 1996, a special scientific Session commemorating the centenary of the birth of the great Bulgarian mathematician Nikola Obreshkoff (1896–1963) took place in Sofia. The Session was organized by the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at the "St. Kliment Ohridski" University of Sofia, the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

and the Union of Mathematicians in Bulgaria. The Scientific Committee of the session comprised B. Penkov, L. Davidov, T. Genchev (Chair) and D. Skordev. The Scientific Programme included six invited general lectures, devoted to the main research interests and achievements of Obreshkoff. Twenty three contributions were presented as well, most of them touching or connected to Obreshkoff's works. The full-length texts of those of the lectures, duly submitted to the Editors, are included in this volume.

The Editorial Board uses the opportunity to dedicate this volume to Nikola Obreshkoff. We think that it is the least that we can do to express, to a certain small extent, our deep appreciation for his profound influence to Bulgarian, and not only Bulgarian, mathematics. It is far beyond our ability and aims to give here a proper survey and account of Obreshkoff's numerous and deep contributions in many areas of mathematics — a glimpse of some of them can be caught from the papers that follow. We can only add that Nikola Obreshkoff is, in our view, a spectacular example of the fact that in the realm of spirit and creativity there exist no small and no big nations.

<div align="right">Editorial Board</div>