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PREFACE

April 30, 2000, is the 95th birthday of the outstanding Russian mathematician Sergei Mikhailovich Nikol'skii, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the oldest member of the Steklov Institute of Mathematics, Russian Academy of Sciences.

S.M. Nikol'skii is the author of fundamental studies on linear operators in Banach spaces, approximation of functions, differentiable functions of several real variables, partial differential equations, and numerical methods.

Nikol'skii is a recognized head and the organizer of a school on the theory of functions and its applications; he has many students and followers.

Nikol'skii has made an invaluable contribution to the improvement of the process of education in our country. Lectures on various fields of mathematics delivered by him during more than 60 years and the textbooks for higher and secondary schools written by him and with co-authors have always been highly popular among lecturers and university and college students as well as teachers and students.

The broad scope of his scientific interests and his exceptional kindness attract many mathematicians. The seminar on the theory of functions and its applications, which he has headed during 45 years, is widely acknowledged both in our country and abroad.

Along with the scientific and pedagogical activities, Sergei Mikhailovich has always been engaged in scientific and public work. He is the editor-in-chief of several mathematical journals.

Sergei Mikhailovich met his 95th birthday full of vigor, energy, and new creative plans.

The contributors to this volume, the colleagues and disciples of S.M. Nikol'skii, dedicate their papers to Sergei Mikhailovich and whole-heartedly wish him good health and many years of fruitful scientific and pedagogical activities.