

Jan Strooker 1932-2014

August 2014

Jan Strooker was born in 1932 in Rangoon (Birma). He visited High School (*Stedelijk Gymnasium*) in The Hague. In 1950 he entered Leiden University to study mathematics and linguistics. He got his love of algebra from the lectures of professor Kloosterman. After obtaining his *doctoraal* diploma in Leiden he visited the USA for two years. He went to Harvard University and Brandeis University to learn more algebra from M. Auslander, R.D. Brauer, D.S. Rim and S.T. Takahashi. After this he took a position at Utrecht University where he finished his thesis “Faithfully projective modules and clean algebras” in 1965. He became full professor in 1980 and retired, still in Utrecht, in 1997. After his retirement he continued to be active in mathematics.

In the early seventies Jan became interested in algebraic K-theory. His seminar introduced a handful of younger mathematicians to this subject and under his guidance the Netherlands became a known center for algebraic K-theory. Jan had contacts everywhere. In the late eighties he visited M. Hochster and became fascinated by the homological conjectures. He wrote the book “Homological questions in local algebra” which appeared in 1990. His 1978 expository book “Introduction to Categories, Homological Algebra, and Sheaf Cohomology” was reprinted in 2009. Jan was the advisor of seven PhD students.