

The toast proposed by Christer O. Kiselman

President Pelczar, Vice-Rector Królas, Dean Musioł, Professor Siciak, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is hard to add to the words of President Pelczar, Vice-Rector Królas and Dean Musioł as well as to the presentation this morning of Professor Siciak's work. However, let me try to give a different perspective, a personal perspective.

My first visit to Poland was in 1974, when I was invited to the conference on complex analysis in Kraków organized by Professor Siciak and his co-workers, many of whom are here now in this very room. This was 27 years ago; it was a great experience. A bit later, in 1976, Siciak visited Sweden for a longer stay. After that I have come to Poland on many occasions, visited Warsaw, Błażewko, Kozubnik, Łódź, and various other places in addition to Kraków. We have met in other places too, like Paris and Toulouse. So over the years I have come to know Professor Siciak both personally and scientifically and it is with great pleasure and admiration that I have now come here for my n th visit to Poland.

A few years ago I started on a project: to write the history of plurisubharmonic functions and pluripotential theory. This was quite an interesting undertaking, because to write the history of a science or even a tiny part of a science is quite different from writing an article on your own research work. And I tried to be faithful to history. Of course the starting point was the creation of the classical plurisubharmonic functions by Oka and Lelong in 1942, but I went even further down in history to the work of Hartogs at the beginning of the 20th century. This also meant that I had to look into literature which was no longer in the upper floors of the library but in the basement, so even physically it was different. I tried to be as accurate as I could, and of course I quoted in one of the sections of this article Professor Siciak's pioneering paper from 1962 and several later papers.

This meant that I was quite well prepared when, a little later, I wanted to present to the Faculty of Science and Technology in Uppsala the project to make Józef Siciak an honorary doctor of Uppsala University. This was not

difficult, with this kind of preparation, so it was with great pleasure that we could offer to you the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa, and even with some precision in time, because it was not so far from your actual birthday—the ceremony was at the end of January and your birthday was to come at the beginning of February: we did a rather good job with the timing!

Although many of you know it, let me also mention the fact that there are many other connections between Professor Siciak and Swedish mathematics. We have Maciej Klimek, one of the former students of Józef Siciak, who is now in Uppsala with me, and we have also had visits on several occasions not only by Professor Siciak for various reasons: lecturing, presentation and judgment of doctoral theses, sitting on committees, but also of his former students Sławomir Kołodziej and Zbigniew Blocki. All this means, I think, that we have a special connection. Maybe this is also the reason why I was asked to pronounce these words.

Finally, let me say that, speaking now for all invited persons to this conference, we are very grateful for the wonderful arrangements here and all things that we have experienced so far and that we will experience. It is really a great pleasure and a great joy for us to come here and be right here.

Thank you very much.