Introduction

Roberto Dvornicich turned seventy in 2020, and to celebrate the occasion we had organized a conference in his honour. Unfortunately, the pandemic prevented it from taking place, so we gladly accepted the suggestion of Andrea Bandini and Alessandro Zaccagnini, editors of this Journal, to collect some mathematical contributions and personal memories of colleagues in a volume dedicated to him. While this does not replace the conference, it is meant to partially fill the void left by it.

Dvornicich obtained his mathematics degree from the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa under the supervision of Enrico Bombieri, with a thesis on transcendental methods in number theory. His teaching career began in 1977 at the University of Pisa, where he was first lecturer, then assistant professor, and then associate professor. In 1987 he was appointed full professor of Algebra by the University of Calabria, where he taught for a few years before moving back to Pisa. He is currently professor emeritus there.

Dvornicich's mathematical contributions range from number theory (transcendence theory, analytic and algebraic number theory, Diophantine geometry) to group theory, commutative algebra, and combinatorics. His works are characterised by the elegance of the results and by an abundance of examples and counter-examples that, in the best tradition of the school of Pisa, Dvornicich produces with great ease.

Inextricably linked to his research activity is Dvornicich's passion for teaching at all levels. Guided by the idea that mathematics can only be learned by "reinventing it", he set much store by the creation of exercises for all of his courses, as anyone who has attended one of his lectures can attest. It is no coincidence that many of his former students are now university professors themselves.

Deeply convinced of the mathematical talent of many young people, Dvornicich has played a leading role in the organisation of the Italian Mathematical Olympiad and in the selection of the teams representing Italy in several international mathematical competitions. Among his appointments was that of chair of the National Commission for the Mathematical Olympiads, which he held for many years. For this reason we have chosen to include, alongside purely mathematical contributions, some memories from the colleagues who shared with him this life-long interest.

We would like to thank the *Rivista di Matematica della Università di Parma*, especially Maria Tiziana Mauro, as well as all the authors who contributed to this volume. As colleagues, collaborators and friends of Roberto, we hope that

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it can be a testimony to the role that his presence and his teaching have played in the lives (mathematical and otherwise) of many people.

<div align="right">Francesco Amoroso, Ilaria Del Corso, Davide Lombardo</div>