

## Adriano Barlotti

Born in Florence on 12 October 1923, Adriano Barlotti developed an interest in mathematics, and particularly in geometry, already as a child, guided by his godfather Hans Dreyer. In 1942 he began to study mathematics at the University of Florence, and immediately after his graduation he became an enthusiastic assistant of Luigi Campedelli. A fellow student of Adriano is now his wife and life-time companion.

Influenced by Guido Zappa, Adriano Barlotti started to work in finite geometry, investigating arcs and caps in finite projective spaces. Other lines of research led to the Lenz–Barlotti classification of projective planes and to fundamental results on groups of projectivities. Invited by R. C. Bose, he spent the academic year 1964/65 at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Adriano Barlotti was appointed professor in Palermo in 1967 and transferred to the re-established University of Perugia in the same year, where he helped to build the department of mathematics. In 1972 he accepted a chair in Bologna and in 1982 a chair in Florence, returning to his roots. At all these universities he provided strong support for his large group of successful students and hospitality for many foreign visitors. Together with Giuseppe Tallini he became a leading figure of abstract geometry in Italy and an organizer of many large international conferences. To his students and colleagues Adriano Barlotti is known as a kind teacher and as a faithful friend.

This special issue of *Advances in Geometry* consists of papers which are dedicated to Adriano Barlotti on the occasion of his 80th birthday. The authors of these papers follow the example of Adriano Barlotti, by contributing—to use his own words—“alla Combinatoria e alla Geometria, che ho amato e non smetterò mai di amare”.

T. Grundhöfer, G. Lunardon, K. Strambach