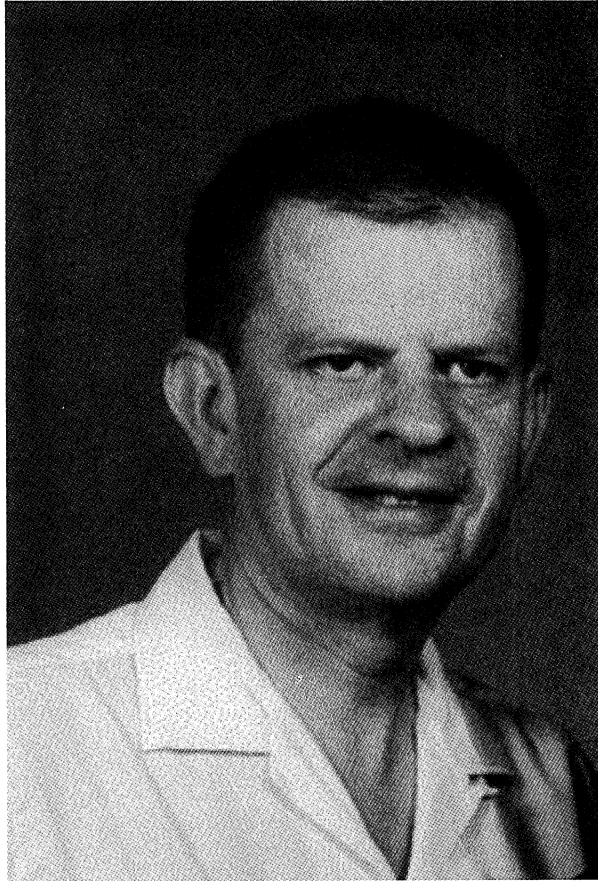


DEDICATION



Richard A. Askey

Richard Askey turned 65 in June 1998. Dick has been on the editorial board of *Methods and Applications of Analysis* since it started publishing in 1994, and we felt it would be appropriate to dedicate a special issue to him on this occasion. Also, he has served on the editorial board of *SIAM Journal of Mathematical Analysis* for over 20 years. During this tenure he has made it a point to encourage young mathematicians, and on many occasions his suggestions improved their papers.

The first time one meets Dick one is astounded by his encyclopedic knowledge of analysis in general and special functions and orthogonal polynomials in particular. Dick proposed many problems to different people, and he has always been proud of his ability to predict who can solve which problem. This personal touch and leadership reshaped the subject of special functions. Dick played a central role in the recent advances in multivariable special functions and orthogonal polynomials. He formulated many conjectures and pointed many talented people in the right directions. He always has had the right intuition and his predictions have always been borne out. If Dick were born in the middle ages he would have undoubtedly been condemned for practicing witchcraft.

Askey's own contributions include the Askey-Wilson polynomials, the positivity of many sums and integrals, and the evaluation of several beta and q -beta integrals.

A more detailed article about Askey's scientific contributions is being prepared for the proceedings of an AMS-SIAM-IMS summer research conference held at Mount Holyoke in June 1998. The conference was on q -series and was dedicated to Dick Askey.

About two years ago, we started soliciting papers for a special issue of *Methods and Applications of Analysis* dedicated to Dick Askey. We were overwhelmed with the response, which is a testament to the love and admiration people have for him. Accordingly, this is the first special issue dedicated to Dick Askey, on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

Mourad E. H. Ismail and Dennis Stanton, Special Issue Editors

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