H. W. KUHN, S. NASAR, Eds.:

The Essential John Nash

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The referred book aims to characterize the person of John Forbes Nash, an outstanding mathematician whose contribution to the theory of game (and not only to it) is extraordinary. Only these professional qualities and the winning of Nobel Price for economy (1994, with Reinhard Selten and John Harsanyi) themselves could deserve attention enough for edition of the referred volume. In the case of John Nash, they are connected with an impressive life and personal experience which is not usual not only within the scientific community. The referred volume offers a kind and well informed views on the main milestones of the life and scientific work of John Nash.

The volume aiming to cover such wide field of facts must necessarily be rather heterogeneous. After introductory *Preface* and *Introduction* written by the editors, it includes biographically oriented section, namely *Press Release* of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences informing about the winners of the Nobel Price 1994, *Autobiography* by John F. Nash, and also a *Photo Essay* offering a lot of pictures connected with Nash's life and work.

The following ten sections are devoted to particular topics of the Nash's scientific work. The first several of them are oriented to the game theory, namely *the Game of Hex*, *The Bargaining Problem* (these two sections are introduced by editors), *Equilibrium Points in n-Person Games, Non–Cooperative Games* (which is published as a facsimile of Ph. D. Thesis), paper on *Non-Cooperative Games* (the last three sections are introduced and commented by the author), and, finally, *Two–Person Cooperative Games*. The remaining four sections are devoted to *Parallel Control* (with editors' introduction), *Real Algebraic Manifolds*, *The Imbedding Problem for Riemannian Manifolds* (with author's note), and *Continuity of Solutions of Parabolic and Elliptic Equations*. The book is completed by a brief *Afterword* and important list of *Sources* presenting precise references to the publications introduced in the previous sections.

The volume is composed carefully with very good knowledge of both, the person of John Nash and his work. Regarding the formal ordering of the text, it is natural and respecting the essential relations between the referred topics. The reader can only ask, why the exact references of the papers are summarized at the end of the volume and not attached to particular quoted contributions. Such representative presentation of an outstanding scientist could be also completed by his complete (or extensive) bibliography. But these marginal comments do not change the fact that the volume is done with responsibility and care.

The contribution of John Forbes Nash to the modern mathematics is really remarkable, and everybody who is interested in it can find all essential about it in the referred volume.

Milan Mareš