

特集：2007年度日本数学会出版賞受賞者のことば

小林昭七氏，野水克己氏 著「Foundations of Differential Geometry, I, II」

Receiving this honor from the Mathematical Society of Japan has brought back my memory of the friendship with Shoshichi Kobayashi, coauthor of the books: Foundations of Differential Geometry, vol. I and II.

Our friendship started in Paris in September 1953. I had obtained my Ph. D. from Chicago and came to France. My thesis was written under strong influence from Professors Chevalley, Chern, Weil, and Koszul. I was lucky to obtain a postdoctoral position in France. In Paris, I met Kobayashi, a student of Professor Yano and now on a fellowship by the French Government.

We met Professor Henri Cartan, son of Elie Cartan. Another mathematician, close to theoretical physics, was Professor Lichnerowicz at College de France. M. Berger was finishing up his thesis. We met him as well as Ambrose visiting from USA. While we enjoyed all this in Paris, we felt we should work with concentration in a small nicer environment. We chose Strasbourg where Ehresmann and Koszul were teaching. We wanted to reorganize some of the classical results, for example, in the 1917 paper by Levi-Civita and Ricci, ElieCartan's results on symmetric spaces (Riemannian or affine), classical surface theory and general submanifold theory, relations with transformations, etc. We discussed any interesting questions that arose. We had time. We had such a wonderful working relationship. As to our future at this stage, Kobayashi would be better off if he gets a Ph. D. as soon as possible at a respectable university. I suggested to him the University of Washington with Professor Allendoerfer. He took my advice. As for myself, I returned to Nagoya University with a nice group in differential geometry. I organized my lectures as a book entitled "Lie Groups and Differential Geometry".

I want to say how Kobayashi--Nomizu was made into a book. Professor Bers, Editorial Board of Interscience Publishers, a division of John Wiley, asked Professor Akizuki for a suggestion on potential authors and my name came up. Bers approached me, I immediately thought "Alright" if Kobayashi can help as coauthor. He said yes. We were 3,000 miles apart, but we could use the system like this in principle: I write the first draft and send it to Kobayashi. He reads, revises and sends it back to me. In the meanwhile, he writes the first draft of Chapter 2 and sends it to me, I revise it and send it back. Those were the days when we had an electric typewriter at best. Volume I appeared in 1963 and volume II in 1969. At this time, both volumes are available in the Wiley Classics Library.

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