

The Skolem Lectures at the University of Oslo

Jens Erik Fenstad

Thoralf Skolem (1887-1963) was professor of mathematics at the University of Oslo. He worked within many areas of algebra, combinatorics and number theory, but is known above all for his fundamental contributions to logic.

Hao Wang ranks Skolem and Kurt Gödel as the two greatest logicians of the century. It is indeed a fact that the current sciences of mathematical logic and theoretical informatics are filled with results and techniques founded in the studies of these two men--Gödel numbers and Skolem functions being but two of many examples.

To honor the memory of Skolem the University of Oslo inaugurated an annual Skolem Lecture. The first was given by Dag Prawitz, University of Stockholm, in 1987. Up until 1996 there have been nine lectures, each given by a leading logician and each dealing with themes originating in the works of Skolem.

The list of Skolem lecturers includes:

Dag Prawitz, University of Stockholm
Robin Gandy, Oxford University
Solomon Feferman, Stanford University
Burton Dreben, Harvard University
Jean-Yves Girard, University of Paris
Hao Wang, Rockefeller University
Grigori Mints, Stanford University
Charles Parsons, Harvard University
Per Martin-Löf, University of Stockholm

In this issue of the *Nordic Journal of Philosophical Logic* we print the lecture by Hao Wang from 1993 and that by Grigori Mints from 1994. We also reprint a biographical article by J.E. Fenstad from *Th. Skolem: Selected Works in Logic* (Universitetsforlaget, Oslo 1970).