



IVAN NIVEN

Professor of Mathematics

University of Oregon

will deliver the

LEONIDAS ALAAGLU MEMORIAL LECTURE

Tuesday, February 18, 1986, 4:15 p.m.

22 Gates

California Institute of Technology

IVAN NIVEN

Ivan Niven was born in Canada and received his Ph. D. from the University of Chicago. After holding positions at Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Purdue, he joined the faculty at the University of Oregon where he is Professor of Mathematics. Professor Niven has also held visiting positions at Stanford, Berkeley, and the University of London.

His mathematical research has been primarily in number theory, and he is the author of seventy papers and seven books. His reputation in number theory was established when he put the finishing touches on Waring's problem, completing earlier work by Vinogradov, Dickson, and Pillai. In 1947 he published the shortest and simplest proof known of the irrationality of π , a one-page paper that made the result available to first-year calculus students. Another landmark paper introduced the concept of uniform distribution of sequences of integers and opened a new field of research. Joint work with Herbert S. Zuckerman made important contributions to normal numbers and to lattice-point covering theorems.

Professor Niven received the Lester Ford Award for a paper on formal power series. His skill as an expositor is also widely known through his lucid books, among which are a Carus monograph on irrational numbers, and a classical number theory text, written jointly with Zuckerman, now in its third edition.

Ivan Niven has also served on many committees of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America. He is the immediate past president of the Association.

The Caltech mathematics faculty is pleased to welcome him as Leon Alaoglu Lecturer for 1986.



The Leonidas Alaoglu Memorial Lecture was established by friends and family of the late Leonidas Alaoglu in recognition of his great talents, his distinguished contributions to mathematics, and his long friendship with Caltech. The Institute is privileged to honor his memory with a lecture each year by an outstanding mathematician.

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

LEONIDAS ALAOGU

MEMORIAL LECTURE

IN MATHEMATICS

1986

