

OBITUARY

Dr. Robert Charles Geary

Dr. Roy Geary, who died on February 8th, 1983, at the age of 86, was one of Ireland's most distinguished statisticians. He was the first director of the Economic Research Institute, later the Economic and Social Research Institute. As a civil servant he founded the Central Statistics Office and he also held senior appointments in the United Nations in New York.

For a time he was also visiting lecturer at Cambridge University. He addressed numerous economic and statistical conferences all over the world and published a great number of papers. Dr. Geary was an honorary fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. He was also elected president of the International Statistical Institute and chairman of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth.

He had been engaged in the collection of Irish official statistics from 1923 and was responsible for inaugurating many new inquiries which have since become standard. When he retired as director of the Central Statistics Office in 1957 he became chief of the national accounts branch of the United Nations Statistical Office.

In 1960 he returned to become the first director of what was to become the Economic and Social Research Institute, and on his retirement as director, the institute honoured him by inaugurating the annual Geary Lecture which has attracted many of the most distinguished social scientists in the world to lecture in Ireland.

He held doctorates from the National University, Dublin University and Queen's University in Belfast. In 1981 the Royal Dublin Society awarded him the prestigious Boyle Medal for Science.

*D. Hurley*

IRISH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Notice of Ordinary Meeting

An Ordinary Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 31st March, 1983, at 12.15 pm. The venue is the Dublin Institute For Advanced Studies, 10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4.

The agenda will include a discussion and vote on the following motion:

*"That the Irish Mathematical Society abandon the idea of giving a prize for outstanding papers in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy".*

If this motion is not passed, it will be proposed that the prize be awarded in the manner suggested by the Subcommittee. The report of the Subcommittee is given below.

Report on Proposed Prize Based on Papers in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy

At Christmas, 1981, the Society set up a committee to consider ways in which a prize could be awarded. The committee sought information from the London Mathematical Society and other sources. The advice that came back, couched in the strongest terms, was that the amount of trouble and effort is out of proportion to the benefits. An interim report along these lines at Easter, 1982, was rejected by the Society, at an Ordinary Meeting, and the committee was charged to consider procedures. At Christmas, 1982, the committee proposed that, if a prize is to be established, then a system along the following lines be used:

1. That at most one prize be awarded per annum, and then