

## Pere Menal i Brufal, 1951-1991

Pere Menal, Professor of Algebra at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, died in a traffic accident on April 4, 1991. Those who knew him, knew his warmth and vitality, and felt a tremendous sense of loss and incredulity at his death. His colleagues in the Mathematics Department of the UAB strongly felt the need to pay a tribute to his memory, and decided then to dedicate this, the Autumn 1992 issue of the departmental journal, to his memory. The undersigned were given the responsibility of inviting mathematicians who had been connected with Pere Menal to contribute articles to the special issue. The reaction was truly gratifying. Although there was a deadline at short notice which prevented many people from being able to contribute, the response was approximately double what we had expected; for that reason, the issue is appearing in two parts. The result bears witness to the strong friendships Pere Menal formed with many mathematicians around the world - who frequently enjoyed the generous hospitality offered by him and his always supportive wife, Maribel Ferrer. He had particularly strong contacts with the Universidad de Granada, and they chose to pay tribute to him by dedicating to his memory an Algebra Week, September 1-6, 1991, with the participation of all the UAB algebraists, and algebraists from many parts of the world. As planned, the Proceedings of that meeting have been incorporated into this special issue.

Pere Menal was a very active mathematician. He was one of the main forces behind the rapid development that took place in Mathematics in Catalonia after 1970; for example, it was his original idea that led to the creation in 1984 of a Mathematics Research Centre in Barcelona. Beginning in relative isolation, he grew to become an internationally recognized mathematician, as evidenced, for example, by the fact that he was an Editor of *Communications in Algebra*. On the following pages are listed Menal's publications and the six Ph. D. theses he directed, two of which were completed after his death. All six students now occupy positions as University Mathematics Professors, a fitting tribute to the enthusiasm he always conveyed.

Joaquim Bruna

Warren Dicks

## Articles by Pere Menal

1. Representaciones finitas de anillos de grupo de grupos abelianos, *Publicacions Matemàtiques UAB* **4** (4) (1977), 65–72.
2. Sobre radicales finitos y linealidad residual de grupos nilpotentes, *Publicacions Matemàtiques UAB* **7** (7) (1978), 1–69.
3. Residual linearity for certain nilpotent groups, *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society* **68** (1) (1978), 27–31.
4. Addendum “Residual linearity for certain nilpotent groups”, *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society* **77** (1) (1979), 19–22.
5. Group rings in which every left ideal is a right ideal, *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society* **77** (1) (1979), 204–208.
6. WITH W. DICKS, Group rings that are semifirs, *Journal of the London Mathematical Society* **2** (19) (1979), 288–290.
7. Remarks on the  $GL_2$  of a ring, *Journal of Algebra* **61** (2) (1979), 335–359.
8. Anneaux de groupe principaux a droite, *Comptes Rendus de l'Academie des Sciences de Paris* **288** (1979), 1005–1007.
9. Sobre anillos de polinomios que son anillos de Bezout, *Collectanea Mathematica* **31** (3) (1980), 229–241.
10. The monoid rings that are Bezout domains, *Archiv der Mathematik* **37** (1981), 43–47.
11. On tensor products of algebras being von Neumann regular or self-injective, *Communications in Algebra* **9** (7) (1981), 691–697.
12. On  $\pi$ -regular rings whose primitive factor rings are artinian, *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra* **20** (1981), 71–78.
13. WITH J. MONCASI, On regular rings with stable range two, *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra* **24** (1982), 25–40.
14. On the Jacobson radical of algebraic extensions of regular algebras, *Communications in Algebra* **10** (11) (1982), 1125–1137.
15. WITH B. HARTLEY, Unipotent representations of torsion free nilpotent groups over skew fields, *Bulletin of the London Mathematical Society* **15** (55) (1983), 378–384.
16. On the endomorphism ring of a free module, *Publicacions Matemàtiques UAB* **27** (1) (1983), 141–155.
17. WITH R. RAPHAEL, On epimorphism-final rings, *Communications in Algebra* **12** (15) (1984), 1871–1876.
18. WITH J. MONCASI,  $K_1$  of von Neumann regular rings, *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra* **33** (1984), 295–312.

19. WITH P. ARA, On regular rings with involution, *Archiv der Mathematik* **42** (1984), 126–130.
20. Remark on the stable range of  $C^*$ -algebras, *Communications in Algebra* **13** (7) (1985), 1555–1558.
21. WITH J. MONCASI, Lifting units in self-injective rings and an index theory for Rickart  $C^*$ -algebras, *Pacific Journal of Mathematics* **126** (2) (1987), 295–329.
22. WITH K. R. GOODEARL, Stable range one for rings with many units, *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra* **54** (1988), 261–287.
23. Morita equivalence and quotient rings, *Results in Mathematics* **13** (1988), 137–139.
24. WITH W. BURGESS, Strongly  $\pi$ -regular rings and homomorphisms into them, *Communications in Algebra* **16** (8) (1988), 1701–1725.
25. “Cancellation modules over regular rings,” Lecture Notes in Mathematics **1328**, 1988, pp. 187–209.
26. WITH K. R. GOODEARL, Free and residually finite dimensional  $C^*$ -algebras, *Journal of Functional Analysis* **90** (2) (1990), 391–410.
27. WITH D. HERBERA, On rings whose finitely generated faithful modules are generators, *Journal of Algebra* **122** (2) (1989), 425–438.
28. WITH P. VAMOS, Pure ring extensions and self  $FP$ -injective rings, *Mathematical Proceedings of the Cambridge Philosophical Society* **105** (1989), 447–458.
29. WITH L. N. VASERSTEIN, On subgroups of  $GL_2$  over Banach algebras and von Neumann regular rings which are normalized by elementary matrices, *Journal of Algebra* **138** (1991), 99–120.
30. WITH L. N. VASERSTEIN, On subgroups of  $GL_2$  over local rings which are normalized by elementary matrices, *Mathematisches Annalen* **285** (1989), 221–231.
31. WITH L. N. VASERSTEIN, On the structure of  $GL_2$  over stable range one rings, *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra* **64** (1990), 149–162.
32. WITH ROSA CAMPS, Power cancellation for artinian modules, *Communications in Algebra* **19** (1991), 2081–2095.
33. WITH CARL FAITH, Counter-example to a conjecture of Johns, *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society* **116** (1992), 21–26.
34. WITH J. J. CARMONA AND J. CUFÍ, On the unit-1-stable rank of rings of analytic functions, *Publicacions Matemàtiques* **36**(2) (1992), 439–447.
35. Spectral Banach algebras of bounded index, *Journal of Algebra*, 46 pages (to appear).

36. WITH K. R. GOODEARL AND J. MONCASI, Free and residually artinian regular rings, *Journal of Algebra*, 20 pages (to appear).
37. WITH R. CAMPS, The power substitution property for rings of continuous functions, *Journal of Algebra*, 15 pages (to appear).
38. WITH J. A. BERRICK, On the abelianization of  $GL_2$  for rings  $R$  with stable range one, (preprint 20 pages).

#### **Ph.D. Theses directed by Pere Menal at the UAB**

1. J. MONCASI, Stable range in regular rings, 1984.
2. P. ARA, Regular rings with involution, 1986.
3. F. CEDÓ, Maximal rings of quotients of group rings, 1987.
4. C. BUSQUÉ, Completeness and continuity in the structure of regular rings, 1988.
5. D. HERBERA, On rings whose finitely generated faithful modules are generators, 1992.
6. R. CAMPS, Cancellation of modules: Artinian modules and rings of continuous functions, 1992.