

# William Feller – distinguished Croatian-American mathematician

(Talk)

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In 2011 the first biographical monograph has been published dealing with the life and work of William Feller, see [1]. William Feller was born in Croatia's capital Zagreb in 1906, where he studied mathematics and physics 1923-1925, and then continued his studies in Göttingen. He is considered as one of the founders of Probability Theory as a scientific discipline. Feller is one of the initiators of *Mathematical Reviews*, and well known for his two volume monograph *An Introduction to Probability Theory and Its Applications*. The monograph has been translated into Russian, Chinese, Castellano, Polish and Hungarian. In 1970 Feller was awarded the National Medal of Science from the then president of the USA (R. Nixon). He delivered a lecture at a scientific colloquim in Zagreb in 1956 (Matematička teorija difuzije), and published two professional articles in Probability Theory in Croatian language (1934, 1939). About hundred and fifty mathematical notions bear his name, many of them sharing with other distinguished mathematicians, 12 of them with Kolmogorov. He was in touch with his relatives and colleagues in Zagreb. According to professor Vladimir Vranić from the University of Zagreb, "... not only did Vilim Feller not hide his Croatian descent, but was also proud of it."

## References

- [1] Darko Žubrinić: *Vilim Feller – istaknuti hrvatsko-američki matematičar / William Feller – Distinguished Croatian-American Mathematician*, bilingual Croatian-English edition, Graphis, Zagreb 2011 (140 pp, hardcover, more than 100 photos; for additional information about the book please write to graphis1@inet.hr, or call +385 1 2332975)

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