

ABSTRACT

This publication is devoted to the life and work of Jan Vilém Pexider, a Czech mathematician, whose name is associated with a certain type of functional equation. Today, almost hundred years since Pexider's death, *Pexider's equation* occurs rather frequently in contemporary mathematics.

This volume represents an English version of the Czech written monograph J. Bečvář (ed.): *Jan Vilém Pexider (1874–1914)*, History of Mathematics, vol. 5, Prometheus, Prague, 1997. When compared to the Czech version, we have omitted Pexider's three brief critical papers published in the journal *Přehled* in 1905, the report on the experiment with the name Pexider has been substantially shortened, and the information related to the Czech edition has been reduced.

The first chapter provides a detailed description of Pexider's destinies, the second is devoted to Pexider's mathematical publications, and the third deals with his contributions to insurance mathematics. Pexider's equation is the topic of the fourth chapter, followed by a brief report on the attempt to find the occurrences of Pexider's name in the review journals *Mathematical Reviews* and *Zentralblatt für Mathematik*.

Enclosed is a list of Pexider's publications, including the reactions of contemporary review journals and the German encyclopedia of mathematics. Illustrations and copies of archival materials and documents can be found in the appendix.