Ord.Prof.Dr. Cahit Arf
(1910 Thessaloniki -1997 İstanbul) _____

Born in 1910 in Thessaloniki, Ord. Prof. Cahit Arf was a world-famous Turkish mathematician known for the theorems named after him.

He received his higher education from Ecole Normale Superieure in France and graduated in 1932. He taught mathematics at Galatasaray High School for a period of time before joining the Faculty of Science of Istanbul University. Afterwards, he went to Germany to receive his PhD.

Upon receiving his PhD from the University of Göttingen in 1938, Arf returned to Turkey in 1939 and resumed his post in the Faculty of Science of Istanbul University. Until 1962, Arf continued his studies in Istanbul University, where he became professor in 1943 and Ord. Professor in 1955. Afterwards, he started to teach mathematics at Robert College in Istanbul, and became the Science Branch Director of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) in 1964.

Cahit Arf conducted several research and observation studies in the USA, and gave lectures as a visiting professor at the University of California. Upon his return to Turkey in 1967, he joined the Middle East Technical University (METU). Following his retirement in 1980, Cahit Arf continued his studies for a while in Gebze Research Center of TÜBİTAK. He was the president of the Turkish Mathematical Society from 1985 to 1989.

The first work of Cahit Arf was published in 1939 in Crelle Journal - Germany's famous journal of mathematics. Arf made significant contributions to mathematics with his works in numerous fields like algebra, number theory, elasticity theory, analysis, geometry and engineering mathematics and produced more than twenty original works.

Arf received the Inönü Award in 1948 and the TÜBİTAK Science Award in 1974. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Istanbul Technical University and Karadeniz Technical University in 1980, and from METU in 1981. In 1990, an international symposium on Number Theory was organized in memory of Cahit Arf. The earliest conferences on his advanced Rings and Geometry studies were held in Istanbul in 1984.

Acquiring a worldwide reputation with his achievements in algebra, Cahit Arf is also known for his studies for solving synthetic geometry problems with the help of a ruler and compass. He is listed among prominent mathematicians with his studies named after him such as "Arf Invariant" of quadratic form, "Arf Rings" and "Arf Closure". In addition to these terms, he also introduced "Hasse- Arf Theorem" to mathematics literature.

Cahit Arf died at the end of 1997.