

Anotonin Svoboda - Bio

Antonin Svoboda was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia and earned his doctorate in technical engineering from Prague's Technical University, where he served as associate professor until 1939.

In 1939 and 1940, he was consultant engineer to the War Ministry in Paris, France, and from 1943 to 1946, he worked at MIT's Radiation Laboratory on Linkage computer design.

From 1949 to 1964, Dr. Svoboda was the director, then director of research, at the Research Institute of Mathematical Machines of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

In 1965 and 1966, he was a consultant in computer design and systems development for the General Electric Company. In 1966, he joined the faculty of the University of California at Los Angeles, as Professor of Computer Design, becoming **Professor Emeritus** in 1977.

He was my PhD Advisor (for the PhD in Computer Science) and said he didn't want to retire until he had a woman PhD graduate. I was it. After my doctorate, we ran a short-course seminar together at UCLA. This book is an effort to record some of the work he did. He was a man ahead of his time. In addition to his brilliant work, he had a rich legacy of stories about his past in Czechoslovakia and of his escape during the cold war.

He died the day Mt. St. Helens exploded, from heart failure. I believe the excitement of the event was too much. He had, at that point, retired from the University due to poor health.

*I am still impressed that, on seeing the first APL terminal, and 180+ mathematical symbols, and the programming syntax and semantics, he went home and **over the weekend** wrote a complete lab, the programs of which are documented here. He was always a mathematician.*

Donnamaie E. White, PhD

