



CECILIA TUWJASZ DE BERDICHEVSKY

Cecilia BERDICHEVSKY was born in 1925 in a small village, currently in Belarus. However, she, her mother and her grand mother were born in the same house of the same village, but one was Polish, another Lithuanian and the third one Russian.

While very young she moved with her family to Argentina where she became a public accountant. Her life took a drastic change when she met Prof. Manuel Sadosky, of the *Facultad de Ciencias Exactas* of the *Universidad de Buenos Aires* (UBA) approximately in 1957. He convinced

her to follow some courses in mathematics, but she decided to follow the complete curriculum and earn the *Licenciatura en Matemáticas*.

In 1961 the first computer arrived to the UBA: a Mercury from Ferranti (UK). She joined the initial group in charge of setting up this computer and developed a set of teaching and research and development activities around this computer in the *Instituto de Cálculo* of the UBA. To reinforce her knowledge about computers in general and about the computer of the UBA, she spent one year (1962) in UK and France. Back to Argentina she taught courses related to computers and numerical calculus at the UBA. After the military putsch of 1966, she, like many other members of the UBA teaching staff, left the university and returned to her original task as accountant. However in the decades of 1970 and 1980 she returned to the computer domain working at the computer centre of several companies not always in conventional tasks (e.g. automatic report filing, computerization of the Argentinean National Library), or accepting executive positions like the *Subgerencia General de Informática de la Caja Nacional de Ahorro y Seguro*.

After she retired she continued her activities as a consultant in the computer domain. Also she promoted the affiliation to IFIP of the *Sociedad Argentina de Informática e Investigación Operativa* (SADIO). She was the Argentinean representative of SADIO to the GA and attended all the GAs while SADIO was member of IFIP.

Three years ago she had a serious brain hemorrhage and her capacities were drastically diminished. Finally, last February 28 she died and IFIP lost one of its courageous defenders.