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**Babai, Laszlo**

*In and out of Hungary: Paul Erdős, his friends, and times.* (In English)

Miklós, D. (ed.) et al., **Combinatorics, Paul Erdős is eighty. Vol. 2.** Budapest: **János Bolyai Mathematical Society, Bolyai Soc. Math. Stud.** **2**, 7-95 (1996). [ISBN 963-8022-75-2/hbk]

This paper is a wonderful biographical sketch of Paul Erdős, the most prolific mathematician of our time. Many of my friends, mathematicians and non-mathematicians alike enjoyed this paper very much because it has a pleasant personal style based on objective facts. In the paper we can meet many friends of Paul Erdős, many child prodigies and many new personal perspectives of historical facts of our century from the peace à la Versailles to the Holocaust in Hungary, from WWI to WWII, from all corners of the world Erdős visited. The first part is an essay on some aspects of the career of Paul Erdős. The second part is a year-by-year account of random events and anecdotes. The paper contains 38 interesting pictures, photos. In the Appendix we can find the current jobs of Paul Erdős, prizes and awards founded and received by him, his honorary degrees and his most frequent coauthors. All readers of this paper will surely learn a lot, and will surely enjoy it.

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Classification:

01A70 Biographies, obituaries, personalia, bibliographies

01A60 Mathematics in the 20th century