

# My odyssey with Seppo Rickman and constructions in Nevanlinna's theory

David Drasin

Purdue University

Seppo's mathematical interests and personal qualities have been a significant part of my mathematical development for over 45 years. Without his help (and those of his group here in Helsinki) it would have been far more difficult for my solution of the Nevanlinna Inverse Problem to have reached correct and final form. Although our interests originally were in very different aspects of value-distribution theory, we continued to follow each other's work and met regularly throughout the next 30 years. By then, the most interesting direction value-distribution theory had moved to understanding his indispensable insights and constructions with quasiregular mappings, and the hours spent going over his Picard construction in 2006-7 were the highlight of my visit here. I returned to America thrilled that I finally understood this work, although I had no idea of how this knowledge might be used. That this was not the end of the story was due to further contacts which were developed also through Seppo here in Helsinki. In the time remaining, I would like to explain how I came to appreciate this remarkable work, and helped see it continue its flowering.

---