

Editorial

This book is offered to Cor Baayen, whose association with the Stichting Mathematisch Centrum (SMC) has lasted for over 35 years. From 1959 until 1965 Cor worked as a scientific researcher at the Department of Pure Mathematics. In 1965 he was appointed head of this department, and also professor of mathematics at the Free University in Amsterdam. In 1980 he became Director of the Stichting Mathematisch Centrum, which position he has held until now.

In the course of the time the ship he was the captain of changed its name — from *Mathematisch Centrum* to *Centrum voor Wiskunde en Informatica* — and traveled not only in time but also in space — from an old-fashioned and run-down school-building at the Tweede Boerhaavestraat to the friendly and comfortable manor in the Watergraafsmeer, below sea level. It also considerably grew, among others by further embracing computer science and by expanding its work in applied mathematics.

Cor steered this ship vigorously through ever-changing waters, sometimes with a full wind behind, sometimes against the wind. At his initiative a number of research areas were initiated or stimulated at CWI, like discrete mathematics, computational linguistics, computer algebra, cryptography, image analysis, performance analysis, interface technology. Thanks to his efforts the INSP-support became available for CWI, and the most successful and continuously growing conglomerate of European research institutes in mathematics and computer science — ERCIM — was created.

His enthusiasm for and interest in the research carried out at CWI can be illustrated best by the fact that he could effortlessly give overview lectures about the scientific work carried out at the institute. Started as a pure mathematician (with a thesis called “Universal Morphisms”), he has spent tireless efforts to get acquainted with the latest developments in mathematics and computer science — which he saw as essential for a Director of SMC —, so as to become authoritative in both disciplines alike.

We are very grateful to all those who contributed to the realization of this book. We thank Miente Bakker for managing the editorial process, Coby van Vonderen for substantial secretarial support, Sjoerd Mullender for making photographs, Tobias Baanders for designing the cover, Rudy de Leeuw, Jan Schipper, Wim Tossijn, and Jos van der Werf for printing and binding the book (the largest project ever of CWI's printing division), and all authors for their articles.

We thank them all also for observing the short deadlines we imposed. The fact that they all met these deadlines shows the esteem they hold for Cor and expresses their appreciation for his dedication to the advancement of science. The breadth spanned by the contributions, from pure mathematics to applied computer science, reflects very well the space created and inspired by Cor for performing fundamental and applied research. The book thus offers the reader a science non-fiction odyssey through Baayen Space.

Cor, by putting this book with so many diverse contributions into your hands we hope to sustain your interest in mathematics and computer science. In your heart you have always remained a scientist. And scientists never retire. They just withdraw with yet another scientific book into their arm chair.

Also on behalf of all contributors to this volume, we wish you all the best in the next stage of your life. You were associated with the Mathematisch Centrum for well more than half of both your life and that of the Centrum. The Centrum bears your imprint and it remains yours!

Krzysztof Apt
Lex Schrijver
Nico Temme