

PREFACE

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These are the proceedings of what is probably the first formal Canadian conference devoted exclusively to Number Theory. The conference was held for three days in April, 1983, and owes its success to the cooperative efforts of a large number of people. Special thanks are due to the University of Alberta and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for their generous financial support, without which the holding of the conference would have been impossible.

Over eighty number theorists from Canada, the United States, Europe and India attended the conference and over fifty research papers were presented. All the papers included in these proceedings are refereed and in quite a good number of instances, the authors were asked to revise their manuscripts, on the basis of the referee's report. I thank the authors of all the manuscripts for their valuable contribution and cooperation.

It is sad to recall the demise of two of the most ardent supporters of this conference (who were also two of my most valued friends and collaborators)—Professor Ernst G. Straus of the University of California, Los Angeles (who died of a heart attack shortly after the conference), and Professor Robert A. Smith of the University of Toronto (who collapsed on his way home from his university a few days before the conference began). In accordance with the desire expressed by most participants, these proceedings as a whole are dedicated to both these mathematicians.

I also wish to record with thanks the enthusiastic support given to me throughout by our department chairman, Professor J. W. Macki, and a number of colleagues too numerous to mention. Also, vital help and support was given throughout by our departmental staff, particularly, Doreen Fletcher, Helga Dymtruk, Lis Cunningham and Christine Fischer. Special thanks are due to Lis Cunningham for cheerfully and patiently attending to the various aspects of the conference correspondence. To all of them, I wish to say "many, many thanks".

Finally, I wish to record my thanks to Professor William Scott for all the time he spent in scrutinizing these manuscripts for the journal.

