

A letter from the Editors

The editors of *Compositio Mathematica* find it appropriate to communicate some information directly to the readers in the form of this editorial.

The present issue contains an article by van Dalen and Remmert about the early history of ‘*Compositio*’, from its founding in the 1930s by Brouwer until the reorganisation in the 1950s. Though this article is not really within the scope of *Compositio* as described on the inside of the front cover, we are happy to include it, in view of the relevance of this subject to our journal.

Jumping to recent history, we mention that since January 2004 *Compositio* has been published at Cambridge University Press by the London Mathematical Society. This change, away from Kluwer Academic Publishers, was possible because *Compositio* is owned by the ‘Foundation Compositio Mathematica’ (details can be found on <http://www.compositio.nl/>), and is not owned by a publisher. A fuller account of this was given by G. van der Geer in the May 2004 issue of the *Notices of the AMS* (see <http://www.ams.org/notices/200405/commentary.pdf>). On the occasion of this change of publisher, the annual subscription rate was dropped by 33%. Since then, the price has gone up only according to inflation, or to balance changes in the values of different currencies. Any surplus income that is now made from the subscriptions no longer goes to a commercial publisher, but is re-injected into mathematics, for example through the sponsoring of conferences.

The copyright in the old volumes, published by Kluwer and earlier by Noordhoff, has been bought by the Foundation Compositio Mathematica. The copyright in the new volumes is directly owned by the Foundation. Since June 2006, back volumes older than 6 years are freely available. The volumes up to year 1996 are displayed at the NUMDAM website <http://www.numdam.org/>. The volumes from 1997 onwards are available on the website of Cambridge University Press, at http://www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_COM.

We take this opportunity to thank the NUMDAM organisation, and especially Thierry Bouche, for making the older volumes freely available.

We thank the previous editor, Gerard van der Geer, who has been in charge from 1993 to 2004, for all his work for the journal as managing editor, and for initiating and completing the transfer to the new publisher.

The change of editors has led to a reorganisation of the Editorial Board as of January 2006. We take this opportunity to thank all former and present members of the Editorial Board for their involvement.

Bas Edixhoven and Ben Moonen