FOREWORD

In appreciation of Bob Rosebrugh

MARINO GRAN, MICHAEL JOHNSON, WALTER THOLEN, AND R. J. WOOD

Bob Rosebrugh was the founding editor of this journal and served for 25 years as its managing editor. We are delighted to present this volume of papers submitted in his honour.

Bob got his pre-doctoral mathematics education, a BSc (1971) and an MSc (1972), at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. He studied at Paris VII during the 1972-73 academic year before attending Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada for his PhD (1977) under the supervision of Bob Paré.

Early in his working career, Bob, like many others at the time, became very concerned about the exorbitant cost of academic journals produced by commercial publishers. Typesetting mathematics used to be specialized work and, before the advent of computers and TEX, publishers could claim that they 'added value'. Younger readers will not have experienced the era of handwritten papers that were typed on typewriters, with variable font and character balls, by secretaries; how typescripts were sent to publishers (by physical mail) with arcane instructions to ensure correct placement of subscripts, exponents, and the like; how a typeset copy returned (by physical mail) to the author invariably contained mistakes which were corrected by the author using the aforementioned arcane instructions; and the process was iterated. Bob was one of the few scientists in the late 1980s to see that the confluence of private computers, TEX, and the internet could allow an academic community to take control of its dissemination of research at almost no cost.

In the late 1980s Bob was unable to convince enough of his colleagues in Category Theory to join him in the creation of an electronic journal. Instead, he proceeded alone to establish "Categories", the Internet Bulletin Board on Category Theory, in 1990. This was a huge success and doubtless Bob's smooth but firm handling of the job of Moderator of "Categories" led to the enthusiasm that greeeted his proposal for "Theory and Applications of Categories", "TAC" as it is fondly known, in 1995. The rest as they say is history and available for all to see at the click of a link.

Throughout his 25 years as Managing Editor of TAC, Bob has maintained an active career as a researcher in Category Theory. His interests have been extremely broad. His PhD thesis studied the difficult problem of determining conditions on an elementary topos with natural numbers object, $\mathcal{E}$, to ensure cocompleteness of categories of algebra

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objects in $\mathcal{E}$. In his publication list this early work is found in [4,7,8, and 10]. But his pre-PhD publications [1,2, and 3] with D.Wood foreshadowed a career-long interest in Computer Science starting with the seminal paper [5], continuing with papers with N.Sabadini and R. F. C. Walters, and ongoing with M. Johnson. Bob also worked for many years with F. Marmolejo, R. Paré, and R. J. Wood on proarrow theory applied to toposes and distributivity, broadly interpreted, and this is also ongoing.

We thank the editors of Theory and Applications of Categories, and especially the new Managing Editor, Geoff Cruttwell, and the other members of the Steering Committee, Michael Barr, Ieke Moerdijk, and Ross Street, for the opportunity to prepare this volume.

The Guest Editors: Marino Gran, Michael Johnson, Walter Tholen, and R. J. Wood.

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