

Preface to the Steenbrink issue

The present issue of *Compositio Mathematica* is dedicated to Jozef Steenbrink on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday.

During the last twenty-five years, Steenbrink has contributed to *Compositio* in various capacities. From 1982 until 1992, Steenbrink and Duistermaat were the managing editors. From 1992 until 2000, Steenbrink was a member of the editorial board. Since 2000, Steenbrink has been president of the Foundation Compositio Mathematica.

Unlike many other mathematics journals, *Compositio Mathematica* is not owned by a commercial publisher but, since the early 1950s, by an independent non-profit organisation, the Foundation Compositio Mathematica. In earlier times the presidency of the Foundation would have been a somewhat ceremonial position, but this changed radically in 2003, when Compositio moved away from Kluwer Academic Publishers to be published at Cambridge University Press by the London Mathematical Society. (For more details on this, we refer to the article by Gerard van der Geer in the May 2004 issue of the *Notices of the AMS*.) Since then, the net income made from the subscriptions to *Compositio Mathematica* is re-injected into mathematics, for example through the sponsoring of conferences. So, at present the Board of the Foundation Compositio Mathematica not only manages the financial affairs of the journal, it also decides on the applications for support of mathematical activities.

In addition to his work for *Compositio*, Jozef Steenbrink is of course a mathematician of high international standing. Especially his contributions to Hodge theory and singularity theory have been very influential. Furthermore, Jozef (also known as Joseph) has played and still plays a very active and important role in Dutch mathematics and academia.

It is a great pleasure for us to dedicate this issue of *Compositio Mathematica* to Jozef.

The managing editors, Bas Edixhoven and Ben Moonen