

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE APPLIED PROBABILITY TRUST

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EDITORS' PREFACE

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The Applied Probability Trust was founded in 1964 for the purpose of launching the *Journal of Applied Probability* (JAP) established by Joe Gani. The first issue of JAP was published in 1964 as well, and this year, the fiftieth anniversary, the Trust has bestowed on us the privilege of editing this special issue of JAP, as part of a series of celebrations and Festschriften.

JAP was later joined by a sister journal, *Advances in Applied Probability* (AAP), to accommodate the ever increasing number of papers. The Trust also publishes the *The Mathematical Scientist* and the magazine *Mathematical Spectrum*, both directed towards educational and recreational mathematics. A fuller account of the Trust's history and activities is given in Joe Gani's historical note in this volume. No one is better placed to write it; Joe has been closely involved since the very beginning of the Trust, and continues to be, even as his ninetieth birthday approaches at the end of the year.

In view of the high standing of the journals in the community, it has been a delight for us that so many eminent scientists have been willing to contribute to the volume. It has been a particular pleasure to also have a mathematical contribution from Joe, as well as some further history and reflections from another major figure in applied probability, John Kingman. A further celebration took place in April this year at The University of Sheffield (where the AP office has been based since 1965) in the form of a series of lectures, one by John Kingman, and the other two annual AP lectures by Dan Crisan and Alexander Gnedin. These lectures are usually published in JAP, but are for obvious reasons moved to this volume.

We are grateful to the Executive Editor Emma Talib at the AP office in Sheffield for all the work and help she has given, and to Daryl Daley who performed the main part of the copy editing process. For both, this has involved giving a substantial amount of spare time. We also thank the Department of Mathematics at Aarhus University and Anne Mette Christiansen for providing secretarial assistance for the project.

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