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Karl Heinrich Hofmann

Foreword

The JOURNAL OF LIE THEORY is a spin-off of the German reunification which was made official on October 3, 1990, which happened to be the 58th anniversary of Karl Heinrich Hofmann. Together with Helmut Boseck (Greifswald), Konrad Schmüdgen (Leipzig) and Karl Strambach (Erlangen) he started the SEMINAR SOPHUS LIE in 1991 as an opportunity for mathematicians from East and West Germany interested in Lie theory to meet and build a united research community. With further expansion in mind the sessions of the seminar were documented in proceedings volumes under the name of the seminar with Karl Heinrich Hofmann as the managing editor. Three years later the series was turned into a regular journal and renamed JOURNAL OF LIE THEORY whose first volume carries the number 4.

Karl Heinrich Hofmann carried on as managing editor until 1998 and supported his successor as deputy managing editor until 2018. He also served on the editorial boards of *Semigroup Forum* (Springer) and *Forum Mathematicum* (de Gruyter) after being a driving force in their foundation.

The creation of the JOURNAL OF LIE THEORY illustrates the seemingly unlimited energy of Karl Heinrich Hofmann, his devotion not only to mathematics, but also to the mathematics research community and the propagation of mathematical ideas. He started his publication career in 1958 and his latest papers have just appeared. With a total of more than 250 publications, among them an extremely successful book on the structure of compact groups with Sid Morris, which in its fourth edition comprises more than 1000 pages, it is clear that this foreword cannot even start to do justice to his scientific achievements. Let it suffice to say that his scientific interests range from ordered structures and C^* -algebras through topological groups to Lie groups. In the 1980s the theory of Lie semigroups even took him deep into questions related to causal manifolds and fundamental aspects of control theory.

For more details on his scientific career we refer to the contribution of his long time friend and collaborator, Sid Morris, in this volume.

Beyond mathematics Karl Heinrich Hofmann is a very talented illustrator. Also this talent he put to use in the propagation and popularization of mathematics, producing posters and illustrations for mathematical events and publications, in particular the weekly Darmstadt mathematical colloquium for the last forty years.

This issue of JOURNAL OF LIE THEORY celebrates the 90th anniversary of a truly remarkable person – scientist, teacher and friend. It reflects the broad range of Karl Heinrich Hofmann's mathematical interests, represented by the contributions of various of his coauthors, but most of all it is a token of appreciation of his friends. Some of which, such as Elena Martin Peinador, Joachim Hilgert and Kenneth Ross were unable to submit an article for this special issue of JoLT, but wish to express their heartfelt best wishes to their friend on his 90th birthday.

Paderborn and Erlangen, October 2022 *Joachim Hilgert, Karl-Hermann Neeb*