The Council of the American Mathematical Society desires to express to the officers of Duke University, to the members of the Department of Mathematics of the University, and to the other members of the Editorial Board of the Duke Mathematical Journal its grateful appreciation of the service rendered by the Journal to mathematical science, and to extend to all those concerned in its management the congratulations of the Society on the distinguished place which it has assumed from the beginning among the significant mathematical periodicals of the world.

—Resolution, Council of the American Mathematical Society, December 31, 1935, St. Louis, Missouri

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In January 1936, just weeks after the completion of the first volume of the Duke Mathematical Journal (DMJ), Roland G. D. Richardson, longtime secretary of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) and one of the early proponents of the founding of the journal, wrote to Duke President William Preston Few to convey the text of the Council’s laudatory resolution and to offer his own personal congratulations: “In my dozen years as Secretary of the American Mathematical Society no project has interested me more than the founding of this new mathematical journal. . . . It was not thought by anybody that a new journal could start off at such a high level in quality and quantity.”

Founded with the support and contributions of the Duke University administration and many leading mathematicians of the day, DMJ was established to complement the American Journal of Mathematics (AJM) at Johns Hopkins, the Annals of Mathematics at Princeton, and the Transactions and Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) by providing a new outlet for the publication of the increasing amount of advanced mathematical research being produced in the United States at the time. Discussions between Duke and the AMS about the founding of a new journal at the university took place over several years, from the late 1920s to late 1934, when Duke University—its Department of Mathematics and University Press—and the AMS pledged their mutual support for the new journal.

The publication of the first issue of DMJ in March 1935 marked the culmination of a true collaborative effort involving the cooperation and contributions of many important mathematicians working in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century, including Arthur Byron Coble (Illinois), David Vernon Widder (Harvard), and Joseph Miller Thomas (managing editor, Duke), who served as the journal’s first editors, with Thomas holding the managing editorship; Solomon Lefschetz (Princeton), who, as a lead editor of the Annals at the time, kept up frequent contact with Thomas to coordinate the transfer of several papers from the Princeton editorial office to Duke for publication in DMJ’s first volume; E. P. Lane (Chicago) and Oystein Ore (Yale), who were all selected for the editorial board by the AMS, which would continue to appoint associate editors for several years to come; as
well as two notable early members of the newly established Department of Mathematics at Duke University—Leonard Carlitz, who had come to Duke in 1932, and John J. Gergen, who was on the faculty at the University of Rochester when DMJ was first published but would move to Duke about one year later.

Such strong representation from the mathematics community immediately established DMJ's credibility and influence, as well as its national, and even international, reach. Now edited by Simon Donaldson (Imperial College, London), Phillip A. Griffiths (Institute for Advanced Study), Peter Sarnak (Institute for Advanced Study and Princeton), Richard Taylor (Institute for Advanced Study), and Jonathan Wahl (managing editor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), DMJ remains one of the top mathematics research journals in the world.

NOTES

A new quarterly devoted to the publication of mathematical research and sponsored by Duke University will appear shortly under the title Duke Mathematical Journal. The editors are A. B. Coble, D. V. Widder, and J. M. Thomas, the last named being managing editor. The associate editors are H. E. Bray, L. W. Cohen, L. R. Ford, J. J. Gergen, R. E. Langer, C. C. MacDuffee, J. A. Shohat, and G. T. Whyburn. The first number will be dated March, 1935. Manuscripts and editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Journal at 4785 Duke Station, Durham, North Carolina; and subscriptions (at $4.00 per year) may be sent to the Duke University Press. Individual members of the Mathematical Association of America may subscribe at half price.

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