

A letter from the Editors

The editors of *Compositio Mathematica* are very happy to write this letter on the occasion of Gerard van der Geer's sixtieth birthday, in order to recognise and honour his many contributions to the journal.

Van der Geer was managing editor from 1993 until 2003 all by himself, and in 2004 together with Edixhoven. From our own experience we know how much time this takes, even when the work is shared among two or three people.

Van der Geer took the initiative to transfer *Compositio* from Kluwer Academic Publishers to the London Mathematical Society, and carried this out in 2004. Much of the work involved would not be directly apparent to readers, authors or referees, but clearly this was the most important change for *Compositio* since the 1970s. The benefits of this change are described by van der Geer himself in his article in the May 2004 issue of the *Notices of the AMS*, 'We can make a change', where he expresses the hope that other journals will make a similar move. These benefits are: a significantly lower price, free access to articles at least six years old, and re-injection into mathematics of surplus income via the Foundation *Compositio Mathematica* (the owner of the journal) and the London Mathematical Society. Since then, a number of other journals have indeed followed the same path.

Since 2004, van der Geer is Secretary of the Foundation *Compositio Mathematica*. In that capacity, he is taking care of most of the Foundation's daily business. The number of sponsored conferences and other activities is growing. For example, *Compositio* paid for the prizes of the European Mathematical Society that were awarded at the Fifth European Congress of Mathematics in 2008.

We congratulate Gerard on his sixtieth birthday, thanking him for his contributions to *Compositio* and, more generally, for his active role in the mathematical community, national as well as international, through his research, teaching, publications, organising of conferences and seminars, and much more.

Bas Edixhoven, Ben Moonen and Burt Totaro