COLLOQUIA MATHEMATICA
SOCIETATIS JÁNOS BOLYAI, 10.

INFINITE AND FINITE SETS

Vol. I.

Edited by:

A. HAJNAL
R. RADO
VERA T. SÓS

NORTH-HOLLAND

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to **PAUL ERDŐS**

on his 60th birthday

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PREFACE

In the summer of 1972 the János Bolyai Society decided to organize a "Colloquium on Infinite and Finite Sets" in honour of Professor Paul Erdős for his 60th birthday. These volumes contain the papers presented at the Colloquium which was held at Keszthely, Hungary from June 25th to July 1st, 1973.

It is beyond the scope of this short introduction to describe adequately, for those who do not already know it, either the significance of Professor Erdős' own mathematical work or of his enormous influence on the work and development of other, especially younger, mathematicians. We are particularly aware and appreciative of his help to Hungarian mathematics, but we also know that he has become something of a legend throughout the whole mathematical world. We can only hope that the contents of these volumes will prove to be an adequately significant birthday present from us.

There were 218 participants at the Colloquium from 19 different countries, including 124 from outside Hungary. Apart from a one-hour address by Paul Erdős, there were 107 other talks. These were all restricted to 20 minutes duration and were given in three parallel sections. Section A was devoted to infinite sets and Sections B and C dealt mainly with finite combinatorics. However, when organizing the material for these volumes we decided not to classify papers in this way and these appear according to the alphabetical order of the names of the authors. The Proceedings contain the written versions of most of the talks which were given at the conference. We have also included papers from authors who could not for some reason or other attend the Colloquium. Since the whole meeting was dedicated to Paul Erdős we decided to omit all the personal dedications by the authors of the papers.

All papers appearing in these volumes were refereed. It was our policy to consider for publication only papers on *finite* or *infinite sets* and as a result of this some good papers dedicated to Professor Erdős could not be accepted.

The local organizing committee consisted of A. Hajnal (Chairman), G. Fodor and V.T. Sós (Co-Chairmen), L. Babai (Secretary), A. Ádám, P. Hamburger, I. Juhász, G. Katona, M. Makkai, A. Máté, E. Szemerédi.

We would like to express our thanks to the I.M.U. for cosponsoring the meeting and for delegating to our Organizing Committee Professors R. Rado (Reading) and E. Specker (Zurich).

The Editor

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