

Preface

Like many other mathematicians around the world, we were saddened and shocked when news reached us that Leon Ehrenpreis had passed away on 16 August 2010. Our first instinct was to collect a volume of mathematical contributions by his many friends and collaborators as well as by many mathematicians whose mathematical career has been influenced by Leon's work. We are very appreciative for the immediate support that Springer and Dr. Francesca Bonadei have given to our idea and for the enthusiastic response of the many authors who have agreed to participate in what we consider as an act of respect, friendship, and affection for Leon. We are also indebted to Leon's daughter, Yael Ehrenpreis Meyer, who has shared with us the beautiful picture of Leon in Stockholm, a picture that so perfectly reflects Leon's zest for life. Finally, we are grateful to Professor Malgrange for sharing with us a personal letter that Leon wrote to him in June 1960 and which is appended to this volume.

As a way of introduction to the volume, we include, in the next few pages, three short essays that focus on three different periods of Leon Ehrenpreis' mathematical life.

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