

Preface

To celebrate the 60th birthdays of Vera T. Sós and András Hajnal, the János Bolyai Mathematical Society organized a conference in Budapest, January 20–26, 1991. The title of the conference, and of these Proceedings, reflects the broad interest and the far-reaching impact of the work of Vera and András: “Sets, Graphs, and Numbers”. The central topic of the conference was combinatorics, but several sessions were devoted to set theory and number theory as well. The number theory part was a special session of the now traditional Austro-Hungarian number theory seminar initiated, and organized ever since by Vera in collaboration with H. Niederreiter.

To guarantee a highest possible level of the scientific program, the Organizing Committee has decided to ask friends from all over the world, experts in various topics of our conference, to organize sessions. We feel that they did an excellent job and managed to bring to the conference many outstanding speakers. The organizers of various sessions were:

Béla Bollobás — extremal graph theory

Ronald L. Graham — Ramsey theory

Eric Milner — set theory

Harald Niederreiter — number theory

Alexander Schrijver — combinatorial optimization

Joel Spencer — probabilistic methods in combinatorics

Endre Szemerédi — theory of computing

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude for their enthusiastic response to our request and for their very successful work. We also want to thank all participants who — in spite of the tense international situation of those days and the cold winter — came to Budapest to work and celebrate.

The conference had 166 participants, 104 of them from outside Hungary. These volumes contain papers presented at the conference. They also contain some contributions by colleagues who wanted to dedicate a paper to Vera and András, but could not make it to the meeting. All papers included

in this volume were refereed. Since all of these Proceedings are dedicated to Vera and András, we decided to omit all dedications from individual papers.

The local organizing committee consisted of László Babai, Gábor Halász, István Juhász, Gyula Katona, Péter Komjáth, Dezső Miklós (secretary), László Lovász (chairman), András Recski, Miklós Simonovits, Tamás Szőnyi (secretary) and Katalin Vesztergombi.

The Editors