

THE SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY OF JEAN-MARC DESHOUILERS

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September 12, 2006 was a happy birthday for Professor Jean-Marc Deshouillers which we celebrated in Luminy (Marseilles) during the „Colloque International de Théorie Analytique des Nombres” (September 11-15, 2006). A large number of participants from many countries honored him by giving mathematical talks and enjoying social gatherings. My long collaboration and close friendship with Jean-Marc and his family are integral parts of my life, so I am particularly happy to write a few notes about him on this occasion. I think this is also an appropriate opportunity for revealing many important issues of Jean-Marc's activity which have contributed to his very distinguished standing.

Analytic Number Theory in France has been in the shadow of more fashionable areas of mathematics of algebraic nature, in spite of the fact that some fundamental results in ANT were established by French mathematicians (such as the Prime Number Theorem by J. Hadamard). It is clear today that Jean-Marc together with a little help from a few others and later followed by his numerous students has changed this trend for good. I have witnessed his enterprising advocacy from the early years of the Séminaire de Théorie des Nombres in Bordeaux I, where I was fortunate to meet (in 1979) his student Etienne Fouvry, who later moved to Orsay and built his own „empire” of analytic number theory. Philippe Michel was Fouvry's student and Emmanuel Royer was Michel's student, so after claiming Fouvry as my half student I am proud to say that my „French Connection” is long and strong. I cannot imagine how this would have happened if I missed Jean-Marc in my career.

Let me begin by telling some facts from Jean-Marc's student period (my recollections come from listening to Jean-Marc during our numerous conversations). These may not be most essential; nevertheless I like to convey the spirit of the beginning. Jean-Marc studied mathematics in the École Polytechnique in 1965–68 which is one of the two most prestigious schools in France to study science (never mind its military designations), the other one being the École Normale Supérieure. J. Hadamard was still present at EP and Laurent Schwartz was actively teaching there, organized seminars for students. Although Schwartz was not working in number theory he never objected Jean-Marc to study this beautiful subject. While