PREFACE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND HONOLULU CONFERENCE ON ABELIAN GROUPS AND MODULES

The Second Honolulu Conference on Abelian Groups and Modules was held at the University of Hawaii, Manoa campus, July 25–August 1, 2001. Fifty-nine mathematicians from 18 different countries participated and a total of 48 talks were given. Baylor University and the University of Hawaii jointly sponsored this conference. Co-organizers of the conference and co-editors of these proceedings were David M. Arnold, Baylor University, and Adolf Mader, University of Hawaii.

The year 2001 is arguably the 200th anniversary of the beginning of abelian group theory (see R. Göbel, *Remarks about the history of abelian groups in England and Germany*, this issue) and the 40th anniversary of what is generally recognized as the first international conference on abelian group theory. As a result, the conference was partially devoted to the history of abelian group theory and related topics.

Two distinguished mathematicians, Paul Cohen and Peter J. Hilton, each gave two 50-minute lectures on the origins and history of homological algebra and forcing theory, respectively. Both of these areas of mathematics are important tools for research in abelian group theory. Written versions of these lectures are included in these proceedings.

In addition, nine senior researchers were asked to prepare 30-minute lectures, with written versions to be published in the proceedings, on various aspects of the history of abelian group theory. These specific requests were, roughly speaking, of two types, an overview of the history of selected central topics in abelian group theory (P. Eklof—set theory and abelian group theory and P. Hill—p-groups) and a brief history, including personal anecdotes, if appropriate, of abelian group theory in selected countries or regions (A. Fomin—Russia; L. Fuchs—Hungary; R. Göbel—England and Germany; J. Reid—University of Washington; L. Salce—Italy and the Czech Republic; D. Simson—Poland; and E. Walker—New Mexico State University). These diverse articles include a variety of perspectives on the subject and on those people