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AND BANACH ALGEBRAS**
(Canberra, January 1989)

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PREFACE

This volume contains papers and problems presented to the Conference on Automatic Continuity and Banach Algebras, held at the Australian National University, January 2 – 20, 1989. The timing and duration of this conference was designed to fit into the January break of many northern hemisphere universities, yet to have a workshop environment to enhance interaction between participants.

The articles are essentially expanded versions of the talks given at the conference, with the exception of several papers which are appearing elsewhere. By deliberate policy the papers herein contain historical background, syntheses and expository accounts, as well as the development of new ideas and results. Following the papers is a list of unsolved problems presented here at Canberra. The volume concludes with a progress report on the problem list of the Long Beach conference on Radical Banach Algebras and Automatic Continuity, 1981.

The participants would like to thank the Centre for Mathematical Analysis for hosting the conference and providing most of the financial support, the Australian Mathematical Society who supported the conference with a Special Interest Meeting grant, and the Mathematical Sciences Research Centre of the Faculty of Science, Australian National University, who funded the visit of N. Grønbæk. On a personal level, appreciation is expressed to Marilyn Gray, Joyce Heinz, Dorothy Nash and Jill Smith, who dealt with all the day to day queries and worries with total aplomb, as well as handling the typing of the papers for these proceedings.

I, myself, would like to thank all participants for making the conference such a success. Special thanks are due to Kjeld Laursen for organizing the conference problem sessions and collating the resulting material for inclusion here, and Niels Grønbæk and George Willis for their assistance in the editing of this volume.

Richard J. Loy
Canberra
August, 1989.