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The purpose of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics is to encourage the development, dissemination, and application of mathematical statistics.

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The main aim of the *Annals of Statistics* and the *Annals of Probability* is to publish original contributions related to the theory of statistics and probability. The emphasis is on quality, importance and interest; formal novelty and mathematical correctness alone are not sufficient. Particularly appropriate for the *Annals* are important theoretical papers and applied contributions which either stimulate theoretical interest in important new problems or make substantial progress in existing applied areas. Of special interest are authoritative expository or survey articles, whether on theoretical areas of vigorous recent development, or on specific applications. All papers are refereed.

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On April 16, 1974 J. Neyman celebrated his 80th birthday. His scientific work, extending over half a century, has had an extraordinary impact on the entire development of statistics as we know it.

Neyman is still young in spirit and a prolific contributor to the scientific literature. A bibliography would therefore soon be obsolete and will not be included here.

Since, in particular, the *Annals of Mathematical Statistics* in its forty-three volumes probably shows his influence more than that of any other living statistician, it seems most appropriate to dedicate this issue of the *Annals of Statistics* to him.