EDITORIAL

On November 12, 2000, the international probabilistic community suffered a great loss due to the passing away of one of the world's leading queueing theorists, Jacob Willem Cohen, at the age of 77. Professor Cohen was most known to the scientific reader in applied probability through his numerous (about one hundred) articles and books, most notably, *The Single Server Queue* (first published in 1969 and the 2nd edition in 1982, both by North-Holland), that has become an encyclopedia for single server queueing systems. While his other significant contributions to probability include those on *regenerative processes* as well as applications of *boundary value problems* in queueing, the named monograph remained perhaps his most recognized and popular work.

Professor Cohen continued to be very active academically after his retirement at the age of 65 until his death. He also published a few articles in *JAMSA*; one of them, a 48-page paper titled, "Analysis of the assymetrical shortest two-server queueing model" (*JAMSA*, 11:2, 1998).

We asked Professor Ryszard Syski, Dr. Cohen's friend, contemporary, and collaborator, to write a brief biographical account on the late Dr. Cohen. Professor Syski shared with us his memories and some photos from his personal collection that bring Dr. Cohen and his other eminent contemporaries, including Julian Keilson and Felix Pollaczek, back to life. The editorial board of *JAMSA* thanks Professor Syski for his generous contribution. Our thanks are also due to Mrs. Cohen-Waterman for kindly supplying us with one of her husband's personal photographs.

Because of time constraints this special issue is not intended to commemorate Professor Cohen, but rather aimed to associate it with Professor Cohen's remarkable scientific achievements in probability.

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