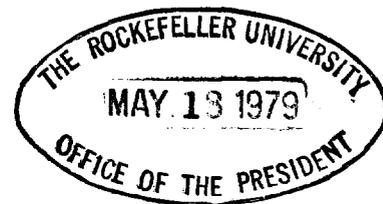


Encyclopedia of Mathematics

and Its Applications

GIAN-CARLO ROTA, *Editor*
Department of Mathematics
M.I.T., Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.

April 30, 1979



Dr. Joshua Lederberg, President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

The ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MATHEMATICS is celebrating its fifth year in 1979. Both the Publisher and those of us who have been associated with this project from the beginning are looking forward to its continuing success. We hope you have found that the first volumes, in part at least, have fulfilled the promise of the manifesto of the ENCYCLOPEDIA: that of making mathematics available to a wider public.

By good fortune, the six volumes published so far have met with excellent reception, and the collected reviews of the last four years, sometimes embarrassingly favorable, make cheerful reading. The three volumes now in press, as well as several other manuscripts about to be sent to the Publisher, meet the standards set by the first six. We hope that after this good start, the ENCYCLOPEDIA will encourage publication of the best expository writing.

Despite having established a good reputation, our project nevertheless may soon lose its initial momentum. The problem is that mathematics today is so varied and ramified, and the number of active mathematicians so large that it is all but impossible for any one person to locate and match author to subject. With this in mind, I am asking you for your help. Briefly, what we need are the names of prospective authors and the specific subjects they can be invited to write about. There is reason to believe that the task of finding suitable authors is easier now than it was five years ago. This is particularly true because it is becoming more difficult for a monograph in mathematics to find publication in printed, hard-cover, elegant format; and the wide distribution of the ENCYCLOPEDIA, together with its hard-gained reputation for clarity, may also act as enticements.

(continued)

Publisher



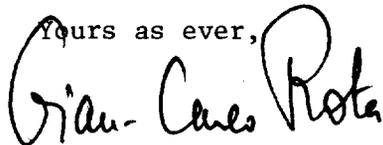
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2.

Please feel free to send to me at any time the names of potential authors, even if scribbled on the back of an envelope; the longer the list, the better. Any person you recommend will be sent a letter of invitation, in your behalf.

In closing, I wish to thank you for allowing your name to be associated with the ENCYCLOPEDIA, and to assure you that we shall do our best to bring this project to fruition.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Yours as ever,

Gian-Carlo Rota
(617-367-3122)
(617-253-4344)

P.S. Enclosed is the draft of a tentative statement of purpose. Please redraft it as you see fit and send me back the corrected copy.

G.-C. R.

May I renew at this time the invitation that you be the Head of the "Mathematics in the Life Science" Section? This would entail very little work on your part, beyond taking a good look at already-referred-manuscripts, and your direction would of course be immensely valuable. Since the Robert manuscript is already in pen, could you let me know $\{$ yes $\}$ or $\{$ no $\}$?

Many thanks.