

## FOREWORD

This special volume of *Cahiers de Topologie et Géométrie Différentielle Catégoriques* is dedicated to Professor René Guitart on the occasion of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

An international conference was organized at the *Université Paris 7-Diderot* on November 11 and 12, 2012 to celebrate René's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, where some of the speakers recalled many of his important scientific contributions in several areas of mathematics, logic, philosophy and epistemology. The great variety of subjects of current research presented at that conference reflects René's creativity and originality in his research activity.

René obtained his *Doctorat de 3<sup>ème</sup> cycle* in 1970 at the *Université Paris 7*, with a dissertation entitled *Relations, fermetures, continuité*, prepared under the supervision of Charles Ehresmann. In 1979 he obtained the *Doctorat d'Etat ès Sciences Mathématiques* at the *Université de Picardie* in Amiens, with a thesis entitled *Relations et structures dans les catégories*, under the supervision of Charles and Andrée Ehresmann.

In his academic career René was initially Assistant at the *Université de Picardie* from 1968 to 1970, and then Assistant and *Maitre de Conférences* at the *Université Paris 7-Diderot* from 1970 to 2013, where he supervised several PhD students. He was also *Directeur de Programmes* at the *Collège International de Philosophie* from 1992 to 1998.

René has been playing an important role in the category theory community for more than forty years, being at the same time an active and highly original mathematician, and an efficient organizer of scientific events. In particular, he is one of the initiators and co-organizers of the *Séminaire Itinérant de Catégories*, an important research seminar on category theory in France since more than 20 years; we would also like to mention that, with Pierre Dampousse, he co-organized the international *European*

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*Colloquium of Category Theory* which took place at the University of Tours in July 1994, under the honorary presidency of Saunders Mac Lane.

We shall not even try to summarize in this foreword all his scientific contributions, which include many new ideas, notions (*e.g.* algebraic universes, lax-completions, exact squares, locally free diagrams, sketches as programs, figurative algebras, specular logic, borromean objects, general notion of a cohomology) and theorems, useful in category theory, algebra, geometry, topology and logic, together with their interpretation and analysis from a philosophical and psychoanalytical perspective. He also contributed to historical works. René's over 100 publications are listed below; we believe the reader will find there a remarkable scientific work which should inspire many further developments in these research fields in the years to come.

Guest Editors:

Jean Bénabou, Andrée Ehresmann, Marino Gran,  
George Janelidze, and Robert Paré.