

## OBITUARY: MARK KAC (1914–1984)

*Letters in Mathematical Physics* mourns the untimely death of a member of its Editorial Board, Professor Mark Kac. Born in Poland, he graduated from the University of Lwow, and soon after, in 1938, emigrated to the United States. He was a faculty member at Cornell University from 1939 to 1961 (and remained there as Professor-at-Large between 1965 and 1971). From 1961 to 1981 he was Professor of Mathematics at the Rockefeller University, and joined the University of Southern California in 1981.

Mark was widely known for his scientific work. He wrote several books and numerous papers and was twice awarded the Chauvenet Prize of the Mathematical Association of America in 1950 for his paper 'Random Walk and the Theory of Brownian Motion', and in 1968 for his paper 'Can One Hear the Shape of a Drum'. He received a number of other important scientific distinctions and was a member of several academies. His various scientific interests included the theory of probability and mathematical statistics, analysis, number theory, mathematical physics, especially statistical mechanics. He remained active until his death, in spite of an illness of which he was fully aware.

Mark was a brilliant scientist and a wonderful human being. We shall all miss him.

*For the Editors:*  
MOSHE FLATO  
ELLIOTT LIEB