Editorial

François Jaeger died of cancer in August 1997. He served as a member of the editorial board of Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics since the first issue of the journal was published in 1992. For the last several years of his life, he worked on spin models for link invariants, and published four papers in this journal. His work inspired many other mathematicians, resulting in more publications related to spin models.

Gian-Carlo Rota died of heart failure in April 1999. He also served as a member of the advisory board of the journal since the first issue. Although originally trained in functional analysis, he began working in combinatorics in the 1960's, and soon revolutionized the field. Arguably, he created the subject of algebraic combinatorics, emphasizing the connections and cross-fertilization of combinatorics with other areas of mathematics. He attracted many luminaries of the field to the subject. Without him, this journal might not exist.

Although their names will permanently disappear from the editorial and advisory board after this issue, we know that François Jaeger and Gian-Carlo Rota's marvelous work, ingenious ideas, and enthusiasm for beautiful mathematics will remain in our readership.

Akihiro Munemasa

Cheryl E. Praeger

Victor Reiner

David G. Wagner