

Preface

This volume has arisen from a colloquium on infinite graph theory and combinatorics held at St. John's College, Cambridge, in July 1989. The meeting, perhaps the first of its kind, sought to bring together some of those graph theorists and combinatorialists most familiar with the infinite aspects of the theory. Its aim was to assess the state of the art in the discipline, to consider its links with other parts of mathematics, and to discuss possible directions for future development. Almost all of those invited were able to participate and have contributed to the present volume.

About half of the articles are research papers; the others are expository surveys of particular areas. They all seek to appeal to expert and non-expert alike. The research papers in particular are generally self-contained.

The Cambridge meeting benefited greatly from the generous support of St. John's College and its staff, early backing by the London Mathematical Society, and a special research grant from the SERC. I would like to thank the authors in this volume for making some of their contributions to the colloquium accessible to a wider audience; it remains to be hoped that the reader will derive as much enjoyment from the material as we did. Finally, my special thanks are due to C.St.J.A. Nash-Williams for contributing his own personal introduction.

Reinhard Diestel

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