

## **On the Occasion of the 100th Birthday of Henri Cartan**

It is a great honour for the International Mathematical Union to associate itself with the hundredth birthday of Henri Cartan, on July 8, 2004.

The son of the great mathematician Elie Cartan, his contributions to mathematics have been fundamental, from several complex variables to algebraic topology and homological algebra. A member of the Bourbaki group, his participation in the rejuvenation of the French mathematical school was essential, in particular through his seminar held at the École Normale Supérieure. His roles as teacher and mentor were also exceptional, and were felt well beyond national boundaries.

During the critical years after the second world war, Cartan's enduring friendship with the German mathematician Heinrich Behnke, and his own personal generosity, contributed greatly to the rebirth of German mathematics. He was made an honorary member of the German Mathematical Society (DMV) in 1994.

His natural preoccupation with international cooperation led to his active involvement with the International Mathematical Union, of which he was President from 1967 to 1970. As such he chaired the Fields Medal Committee for the Nice International Congress of Mathematicians in 1970.

He has been actively involved in the defense of mathematicians who were jailed or discriminated against in their countries, and is an ardent defender of European unity.

Mathematicians worldwide unite with respect and admiration in warmly congratulating Henri Cartan, great mathematician and great man, on this happy occasion.

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