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Editorial

As I am sure all readers of the *Gazette* are aware, 2007 is the tercentenary of the birth of Leonhard Euler, an indisputable superstar of the mathematical firmament. This issue of the journal is partly a celebration of his memory. Graham Hoare begins with a historical overview of Euler's life and creativity, and this is followed by Nick Lord's tribute to the man's fecund imagination and his ability to construct proofs of the most extraordinary ingenuity. Ian Anderson reviews the groundbreaking work in combinatorics, a subject which Euler practically invented, and Peter Shiu examines his wide-ranging contributions to number theory. Finally Geoff Smith and I offer two contrasting perspectives on Euler's legacy to geometry. I hope that readers enjoy this brief survey of the work of one of the most prolific of all mathematical thinkers, and apologise that we have only managed to scrape the surface of an inexhaustible treasure-trove.

A further innovation in this issue is in fact a comeback - the return of the Teaching Notes which last appeared in the 1940s. I have felt for some time that there is a place in the *Gazette* for short pieces which examine good ways to convey mathematics in the classroom and suggest innovatory approaches to various topics. I hope that this renewed section can become a focus for stimulating discussion about some of the practicalities of school teaching.

Hugh Williams, who has been the Reviews Editor since 2003, has decided it is time to pass on the baton. I am immensely grateful for the work he has done over the past four years. When I wrote a job description of the post, I was astonished at the amount of work it involved. He has managed the not inconsiderable task of dealing with reviewers, publishers and authors, has offered wise and tactful advice on writing literate, honest and provocative reviews, has designed and maintained an accurate and flexible electronic database, and has remained cheerful and positive whilst dealing with the physical problems of ensuring that books have always gone to the right places. It is a tribute to Hugh that the journal's reviews continue to be respected in the mathematical press and are often quoted in publicity material or on the internet. I am pleased to announce that Martin Griffiths has agreed to take on the mantle in his place and welcome him to the *Gazette* team.

GERRY LEVERSHA