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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The Proceedings of the Winter School 'Geometry and Physics', traditionally published in 'Supplemento ai Rendiconti del Circolo Matematico di Palermo' contain written versions of approximately half of talks, presented during the Winter School held in Srní in January 1988. Five longer series of invited plenary lectures were given there by B.L.Feigin, T.Friedrich, E.Martinec, I.Penkov and V.V.Schechtman. The content of two of them can be found in the two first papers of the Proceedings. Altogether there is 23 contributions to the Proceedings. There were 82 participants at the School, 44 from abroad and 38 from Czechoslovakia.

We would like to dedicate the Proceedings of the Winter School to the memory of Vadim Knizhnik (Feb 20, 1962 - Dec 25, 1987). He was expected to come to Srní and to read there a series of plenary lectures on string theory, but he had died two weeks before the School began. The number of his important contributions to the very rapidly expanding area of research between mathematics and physics is all the more surprising in view of the fact that he was only 25 when he died. His death is a great loss for the international community of mathematicians and physicists.

Editors: J. Bureš , V. Souček