

PREFACE

The *Thirteenth General Meeting of European Women in Mathematics* (EWM07) was held at the University of Cambridge, UK, 3–6 September, 2007. The present volume contains the texts of most of the invited talks delivered at the conference and a selection of the contributed papers. All have been peer-reviewed. The volume also contains some articles on women in mathematics, such as historical accounts, which were presented during the meeting.

The EWM meetings have been taking place since 1989. They feature prominent women mathematicians as speakers, and generally have two or three main mathematical themes as well as sessions on issues affecting women in mathematics. Many have been amazed and encouraged by the experience of attending an EWM conference, never having previously been part of a group of over 100 women listening intently to a talk on state-of-the-art mathematical research, or had the opportunity to meet and talk to women mathematicians in a variety of fields. The conferences have sparked collaborations, follow-on meetings on related themes and, most importantly, have inspired many women from graduate students to professors as they develop their careers as working mathematicians.

The conference was supported by grants from the London Mathematical Society, EPSRC, the University of Cambridge and Schlumberger. Springer and Google also supported the conference with prizes for best contributed paper.

The Local Organizing and Scientific Committees are to be thanked for creating a well-run and productive meeting, with an exciting programme of talks and poster presentations. We especially thank Ms. Amanda Staggs for all her administrative support before and during the conference.

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