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REFLECTIONS

It is time for reflections. Now and then each respected Journal should reflect on its own existence and its own contents. Where do we go from here? Do we follow the right direction of publishing and reporting new developments? Did we miss something? These and similar questions are of great importance for the scientific attractiveness of the Journal. In this issue we complete the refreshment of the Editorial Board by welcoming Ingo Althöfer, Cameron Browne, and Guy Haworth. Of course, we thank their predecessors Michael Buro, Ken Chen, and Hans Kuijf wholeheartedly. They were instrumental in helping us to reach our current position as the leading Computer and Abstract Games Journal in the scientific world. Thank you, gentlemen.

In this world full of changes we are still looking for women who would like to serve on the Editorial Board. If one of our members knows a qualified candidate we would be delighted to broaden the scope of our Editorial Board. This brings us to the following question.

Is there a clear reason to encourage us to take a new direction in our Journal? Probably not. Yet, your Editor has decided to show more flexibility in his policy. Therefore, we have replaced the Notes section in this issue by a section called Reflections. It is not a permanent change, so please keep on sending us Notes.

In the previous issue we communicated already that the borderline between a Note and an extended Report, with explanations of the techniques used and with useful references, is small. In particular, our new Editorial Board member Ingo Althöfer is a “king” in writing historical developments with interesting details in a way that is similar to that used by James Joyce for his Stream of Consciousness. In this issue, Althöfer succeeded in making it a “Havannah” issue. The reference to Cuba and Hemmingway, which is the title of his reflections is transferred in the course of his story to Christian Freeling and computers. His stimulating effort also resulted in a Havannah report by Jan Krabbenbos and Ton van der Valk (see pp. 241-247).

When growing older, reflections come automatically. That happened to our President David Levy. He went back in thinking to his youth and mid life and found out that chess has evolved and global brains too (see pp. 220-224). His parallels have to be read as instructive notes, not as singularities. I am sure they will show their value after 25 years (half of the period he discussed).

As a sequel to David's contribution, your Editors, Aske Plaat and myself, would like to thank our community for providing such an inspiring environment. For myself, I have had the privilege to cooperate many years with Guillaume Chaslot and Jahn Takeshi Saito, and before them with Levente Kocsis, and at a distance of one step only with Bruno Bouzy, Tristan Cazenave, Rémi Coulom, and the FUEGO and the MOGO teams. This collaboration has given Aske Plaat and myself the opportunity to bring the MCTS techniques to the world of particle physics. We do not know yet whether it can be successfully applied there, but that is a characteristic of challenging research.

Our cooperation is together with Jos Vermaseren (Principal Investigator of the ERC Advanced proposal HEPGAME), and Jan Kuipers (Nikhef, Amsterdam). The first results of MCTS (in the research outside our community) are in multivariate Horner schemes. Since that article inspired David Levy's reflections, all is said and done for this topic for this moment.

Subsequently, this issue offers you a beautiful insight into the intricacies of Nonograms as written by Joost Batenburg and Walter Kusters (see pp. 195-205). It is a joy to read and hopefully it encourages the reader to participate with a Nonogram program in the forthcoming Computer Olympiad in Yokohama, Japan, in August. Then we are happy with the publication on Deep Perft and Divide Numbers for Checkers by Aart Bik, who currently works for Google in Mountain View, CA (see pp. 206-213).

Further, we would like to congratulate the outgoing Editorial Board member Hans Kuijf with regaining the World Computer Bridge Champion title in 2012. His program JACK is a class on its own. We thank Al Levy for his diligent report (see pp. 248-250).

Finally, our congratulations go to the incoming Editorial Board member Cameron Browne for receiving the 9th Annual "Humies" Award (see pp. 251-252). All in all, our community is full of changes, breakthroughs, and awards. The ICGA Journal will keep you up to date on new developments.

Jaap van den Herik

The credits of the photographs in this issue are to: Shi-Jim Yen, Jan Krabbenbos, Ingo Althöfer, and to Internet contributors.

ICGA Journal readers who are interested in information on our publications are referred to our website. A complete list of all articles, notes, and literature reviews published in the *ICCA Journal* and the *ICGA Journal* is accessible on the Internet at <http://www.icga.org>