

## **Editors' Preface**

Dear Nico,

It is with great pleasure that we present you with this collection of articles by some of your friends, students, and colleagues. These categories are not only nonexclusive, but there is probably no one among the contributors who does not consider himself a member of all three. We, and many others not represented here, have learned much from you and enjoyed the elegance of your mind.

You have insisted, and continued to insist with wit and perseverance, that science is a rational subject, where right and wrong are decided by logical arguments rather than by fashion, funding, or by an "authority." [In Nico's definition an authority is "a person who has been an expert!"]

We also want to use this opportunity to congratulate you with the Royal/Shell Prize 1988, awarded to you on May 26, 1988 for your integral scientific contribution.

We hope, Nico, that you will find this birthday offering pleasing. We, and all your other friends and admirers, wish you many happy returns.

H. van Beijeren, M. H. Ernst, and J. L. Lebowitz, Editors