

PREFACE

It gives us great pleasure to present this volume of the Journal of Statistical Physics to our old friend and colleague, Bernard Jancovici, a/k/a Janco, on the occasion of his 65th birthday (give or take some). We surely speak on behalf of all contributors to this issue, as well as for those friends who could not contribute, in wishing Janco many happy returns.

This issue grew out of a conference in honor of Janco's 65th birthday, which took place at the University of Puerto Rico in March 1996. The great affection for Janco shown on that occasion by all the participants reflects the unique role which he has played in the statistical mechanics community both through his own important contributions to the field and by his unique role of a reliable, trusted friend to so many of us, always available with sympathy and sound advice.



Fig. 1. Janco with granddaughter Marion.

Bernard Jancovici was born in the Parisian suburb of Boulogne-Billancourt. He graduated from the Ecole Normale Supérieure, after which he spent a year with Wigner at Princeton, where he published a much cited paper on the decay of Carbon 14. He then switched to statistical mechanics where he made many early contributions to the theory of crystals, hard spheres, and other topics. He then settled down to the study of Coulomb systems where his achievements are many and still growing. These include the exact solution of the inhomogeneous Coulomb systems in two dimensions: the only continuous system in more than one dimension that admits an exact solution.

This model has served as a benchmark for establishing and testing general relations for Coulomb systems. It has served as a basis for recent



Fig. 2. Janco at work.

theoretical developments in metal surfaces and biomembranes. It has been used very effectively for the study of electrode-electrolyte interfaces, where extensions of the exact solution of the Jancovici model were able to predict structures and phase transformations in real electrodes. His work was also used in the theory of the Quantum Hall effect.

Bernard's unique charm and deep knowledge have been a source of inspiration to all those who have had the privilege of knowing him. We hope this circle will continue to grow for a long time.

Lesser Blum
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