Proceedings of the Conference Groups in Galway 2005
to mark the retirement of Professor Martin L. Newell

Introduction

REX DARK

Martin L. Newell has been closely associated with UCG (now NUI, Galway), as well as with the IMS, and with the annual conference on Groups in Galway. It is therefore appropriate that this issue of the Bulletin contains articles dedicated to him on the occasion of his retirement, and mostly based on lectures given at Groups in Galway 2005.

Martin grew up at UCG, where his father Martin J. Newell was Léachtóir le Matamaitic, then Professor of Mathematics, and became President of UCG in 1960, when the family moved into the President's residence in the College quadrangle. Martin L. Newell was awarded B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees at UCG, before obtaining his Dr.phil.nat. at Frankfurt am Main with R. Baer. After working at Queen Mary College in London, he returned to Galway as Lecturer in Mathematics in 1970, later becoming Associate Professor.

When the Irish Mathematical Society was formed in 1977, Martin Newell was its Treasurer for the first 2 years. At the same time, it was Martin who issued invitations to "An Instructional Conference on Topics in Group Theory" held in Galway on 12th and 13th May 1978. This meeting, which was soon called Groups in Galway, has taken place annually since then, with Martin's continuing involvement. Martin later served as President of the IMS in 1985–86.