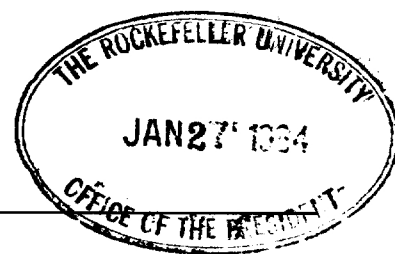




THE BENJAMIN/CUMMINGS PUBLISHING COMPANY



2727 SAND HILL ROAD MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025 (415) 854-6020
January 23, 1983

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Rockefeller University
1230 York Ave.
New York, NY 10021

Dear Professor Lederberg: ↓ (hand)

As you may know, the Encyclopedia of Mathematics, (Gian-Carlo Rota, Editor) and other advanced titles in mathematics and physics were transferred this summer from Addison-Wesley Publishing Company in Reading, Massachusetts to Benjamin/Cummings Publishing Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Addison-Wesley, located in Menlo Park, California. This complex process created some delays as we accomplished the physical relocation of a substantial publishing program, and an additional period of time was required while we at Benjamin/Cummings examined the major series in physics and mathematics, particularly the Encyclopedia, and assessed from an editorial and financial viewpoint, their present status and future prospects.

Although the Encyclopedia has gained a reputation as an important and prestigious series, our examination of the Encyclopedia has made it painfully apparent to us and to Professor Rota that the Encyclopedia was not recovering the substantial costs required to publish the volumes. Increased production costs, significant decreases in sales revenue from our major foreign markets, and limited prospects for future growth (despite some outstanding manuscripts under contract) were principal among the circumstances which have forced us to consider alternative scenarios for the Encyclopedia.

Coincident with our examination of options for the Encyclopedia, Professor Rota's ten-year contract as Editor of the series has expired. Despite extensive discussion, he and I were unable to agree on a future course for the Encyclopedia which would meet his editorial expectations and our financial goals. Benjamin/Cummings has, therefore, not renewed Professor Rota's contract as Editor for the Encyclopedia of Mathematics. Without his outstanding editorial leadership and considering the financial difficulties of the series as a whole, my colleagues and I have decided to conclude the Encyclopedia immediately after the publication of volumes presently in production.

As a member of the Editorial Board, you have contributed to the fine reputation of the Encyclopedia, and I want to personally express Addison-Wesley's and Professor Rota's gratitude to you for your efforts on our behalf.

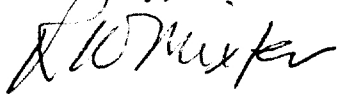
As you may imagine, the decision to discontinue the Encyclopedia of Mathematics was a difficult one, and not easily or hastily made. Addison-Wesley and Benjamin/Cummings both enjoy substantial reputations in mathematics publishing. We intend to continue our tradition of service to the

mathematics community through other series and independent volumes. The conclusion of the Encyclopedia reflects circumstances intrinsic to that series, and is in no way a measure of Benjamin/Cummings' commitment to or interest in mathematics publishing in the future. Although no new volumes will be published after 1985, we expect to keep the Encyclopedia in print for the foreseeable future.

It is of utmost concern to Professor Rota and to me that the authors whose manuscripts have not yet reached production be accommodated in every way possible. Professor Rota and I will be working closely together over the next few months to offer guidance and specific suggestions to these authors in placing their manuscripts.

Although my travels will keep me out of the office for most of January, please feel free to call me in early February if you have any questions. I plan to attend the American Mathematics Society meeting in Louisville, and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you there to thank you in person for your past help and commitment to the Encyclopedia of Mathematics, and to discuss any future writing plans you may have.

Yours truly,



Richard W. Mixter
Editor, Advanced Book Program

cc: Gian-Carlo Rota