

About the cover

The French Quarter

The cover illustration for this issue is an ink and felt pen sketch of Royal Street in the Vieux Carré of New Orleans, site of this year's Joint Mathematics Meetings. It was drawn in 1998 by Karl Hofmann, faculty member at both Tulane University and the University of Darmstadt. His tools were a Staedtler calligraphic pen and a few felt pens.

Karl says, "New Orleanians call the French Quarter, the oldest part of their town, the 'Vieux Carré', indicating at the same time its old history and its European flavor, preserved to this day: bustling with tourists and locals alike, with jazz musicians, artists, tarot readers, and other performers in Royal Street and around Jackson Square. A friend of mine commented that the black-and-white rendition conjured up in him the impression of yesterday's authenticity of the time of black-and-white photographs."

Karl was also responsible for the *Notices* cover associated with the last annual meeting in New Orleans (2007). We are grateful to him for both.

—Bill Casselman
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