

## FOREWORD

These two volumes contain my published papers and twenty of my letters, ordered chronologically by the time they were written. Most of these works are accompanied by comments. These are quite brief except for the one on the letter to Dwork of February 13, 1958. That comment contains previously unpublished results of mine with Mazur.

Most of the letters included in this work are to J-P. Serre who was my principle correspondent. Our complete correspondence, at least until the year 2000, is published in Volumes 13 and 14 of the series Documents Mathématiques of the French Mathematical Society, titled *Correspondance Serre–Tate*, edited by Pierre Colmez and Jean-Pierre Serre, 2015.

I feel I've had more than my share of good fortune. One example is my meeting, by pure chance, Emil Artin, the mentor from whom I learned so much. Another is my having had the opportunity to spend an especially valuable year 1957–1958 in Paris, thanks to Harvard's policy of offering junior sabbaticals.

I did not write easily, and am thankful that my colleagues generously included unpublished results of mine in their papers and books, crediting me fully. More generally, I have had the support of family, in spite of my obsession with mathematics, and have enjoyed good health to date. Finally, I feel fortunate to have been inclined towards mathematics, a field in which cooperation is so much more common than competition, and in which I could earn a living by doing what I most liked to do.

Publishing my collected works was suggested 25 years ago by the editors, Barry Mazur and Jean-Pierre Serre. That they appear only now is entirely due to my procrastination. That they appear at all is thanks to their patience and perseverance and to the energy and great help of Sergei Gelfand of the American Mathematical Society. I heartily thank them all.

John Tate, December 2015

## Preface

These two volumes of the *Collected Works of John Tate* reproduce all of Tate's published mathematical papers together with a selection of his letters. Most of the papers and letters are followed by detailed comments by Tate himself. The papers appear in chronological order. The letters are at the end of each volume.

For an overview of the many aspects of Tate's work, the reader may read the report by J.S. Milne *The Work of John Tate*, included in *The Abel Prize 2008–2012*, Springer-Verlag, 2014.

We want to thank John Tate, for his help and for contributing comments, and Sergei Gelfand for all the work he did to make this publication possible.

Barry Mazur & Jean-Pierre Serre  
Harvard, May 2015