P R E F A C E

This volume represents the proceedings of the **2nd Summer School in Modern Mathematical Physics**, held at Kopaonik (Serbia, Yugoslavia) 1-12 September 2002 (http://www.phy.bg.ac.yu/mphys2/). The proceedings consist of two parts: lectures and workshop reports. A major part of the programme was related to some recent developments in String/M-theory and Quantum field theory. Particular topics include: various aspects of theories on noncommutative spaces, string field theory, mass scales, intersecting brane worlds, some integrable models, gauge theory of gravity, superstrings and superbranes, deformation quantization, unified field theories, quantum information, etc. Some of the talks not presented in these proceedings, can be found at the Los Alamos preprint archive (http://xxx.lanl.gov).

The first Summer School in Modern Mathematical Physics was held in Sokobanja (Serbia, Yugoslavia), 13-25 August 2001 and the corresponding proceedings were published by the Institute of Physics, Belgrade. This series of summer schools is a part of Julius Wess' WIGV initiative. WIGV is an initiative for the advancement of scientific contacts between Germany and other countries, which have emerged on the territory of former Yugoslavia (http://www.wigv.de). In addition to the usual goals, the organizers supported as much as possible participation of the scientists from the region and tried to create the stimulative atmosphere for their scientific contacts, cooperation and friendship.

During the summer school the participants took part in an excursion to two famous Medieval Serbian monasteries (Studenica and Sopoćani). Kopaonik is an attractive mountain with a very specific and interesting climate. Many of the participants will long keep in mind a walk to picnic under storm and thunder.

We wish to thank once again the lecturers and workshop speakers for their review talks and efforts to prepare their contributions

for these proceedings. We thank all participants for their active participation in all activities, especially in the interesting and intriguing evening discussions. Financial support of the all sponsors is greatly acknowledged by the Organizers. We are grateful to the institutions and people who participated in the organization of this meeting, and in particular, share enormous gratitude to Julius Wess and Lutz Moeller.

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