EDITORIAL

With this issue the first volume of the *Journal of Automata, Languages and Combinatorics* is completed. Although the first issue was published some months later than planned, the first volume appeared in 1996. This is due to the intensive work of the Technical Editor, and I am very grateful to the *Otto-von-Guericke-University* of Magdeburg for its vast and unbureaucratic support in publishing the new journal.

Moreover, I thank all contributors for submitting their papers to the *Journal of Automata, Languages and Combinatorics*, all referees and the members of the Advisory Board for their helpful assistance.

However, there is a German saying according to which it is easier to achieve the first success than to repeat it. This shall be true in particular for the edition of the *Journal of Automata, Languages and Combinatorics*, since a journal can only be successful if the papers published in it are of high quality. Thus, I hope that the interest of computer scientists, mathematicians etc. will grow with every issue of our journal.

Jürgen Dassow