Preface

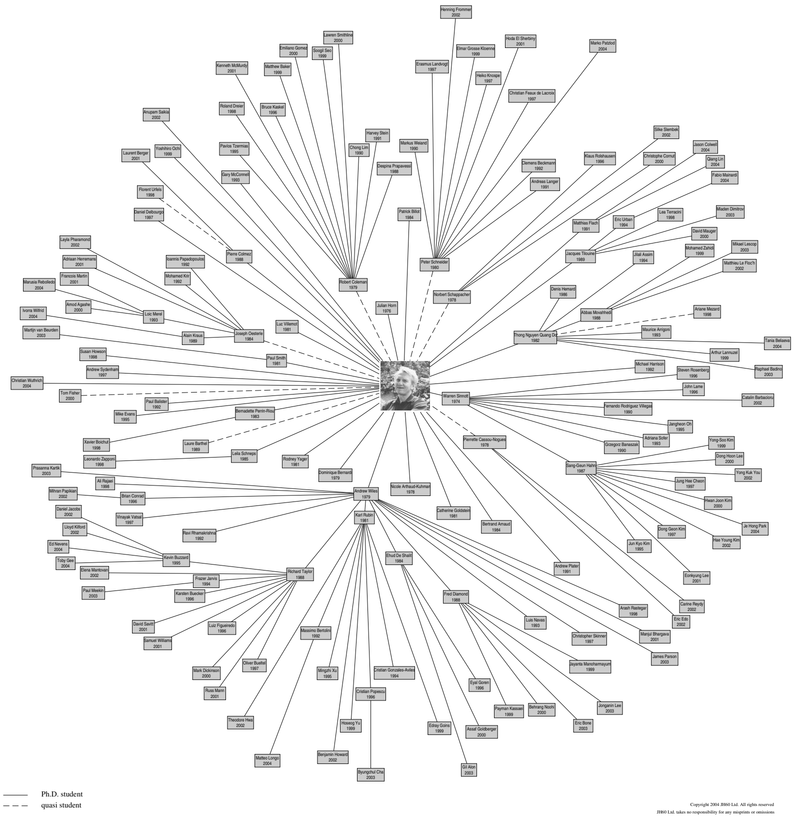
This volume is dedicated to Professor John Coates, an outstanding collaborator, colleague, author, teacher, and friend. He has greatly contributed to number theory, both through his fundamental mathematical works and through his impressive mathematical school. He is a continuous source of tremendous inspiration to students and colleagues. John Coates has been one of the leading proponents of and contributors to Iwasawa theory and he is the founding father of its recent development in the form of non-commutative Iwasawa theory.
We included in the volume the Japanese tanka "Samegai's Waters" which was selected by John upon our request.
Prior to the Cambridge conference

http://www.maths.nott.ac.uk/personal/ibf/jhc.html

to mark the 60th birthday of John Coates, Sarah Zerbes and Vladimir Dokchitser had produced a diagramme of his mathematical family tree which is included in the volume (next page).

I. Fesenko, S. Lichtenbaum, B. Perrin-Riou, P. Schneider

Oh, what a tangled web we weave...



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Tim Dokchitser
Vladimir Dokchitser
Sarah Livia Zerbes

The John Coates mathematical family tree is reproduced here with the kind permission of its authors.