

Letter of A. Grothendieck to Axler<sup>1</sup>

Montpellier, 9 July 1988

Dear Professor Axler,

Thank you for your invitation to write an article for the *Mathematical Intelligencer* in relation to my refusal of the Crafoord Prize. You describe the *Mathematical Intelligencer* as “intended for leisure reading for active mathematicians”, yet I am not sure the issue you suggested that I write about properly belongs to the “leisure” compartment of a working scientist’s life. It would seem that most scientist, at any rate those in positions of editorial responsibility, judge otherwise: a copy of my letter to the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, stating the reasons for my refusal of the Prize, was sent to *Science* (to which your letter refers) and to eleven other similar journals, each addressing a general international audience of scientists. As far as I know, none of them have included this letter, except some excerpts according to the editor’s tastes.

What I have to say about declining ethical standards and its context I stated in the letter just referred to (copy included), and in greater detail in the full-scale reflection *Récoltes et Semailles* mentioned there. If you wish to fill the gap left by *Science* and other journals, you are welcome to publish this letter to the Swedish Academy, provided only that 1) the letter is included in its entirety, and 2) you include this short letter to you, as an explanatory introduction.

Sincerely,

A. Grothendieck

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<sup>1</sup>This text had been transcribed by Mateo Carmona

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