

Mittag-Leffler and *Acta Mathematica*

June Barrow-Green

Open University, Milton Keynes, England, U.K.

When Mittag-Leffler died in 1927, *The Times* of London carried a short obituary which began “As founder and editor-in-chief of the international journal, *Acta Mathematica*, Mittag-Leffler was probably the best-known mathematician in Europe, if not in the world.” With *Acta*, it can be said Mittag-Leffler found his true métier. For forty-five years, from the journal’s inception in 1882, his duties as editor of *Acta* were his main preoccupation, and he excelled in the role. The journal has remained in the front rank of mathematical periodicals from its inaugural volume up to the present day, and credit for establishing its enduring reputation lies firmly with Mittag-Leffler. In this talk I shall describe the founding of the journal and Mittag-Leffler’s role in its development as one of the first truly international mathematical journals.