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Volume VII

Surveys in Differential Geometry

Papers dedicated to Atiyah, Bott, Hirzebruch, and Singer

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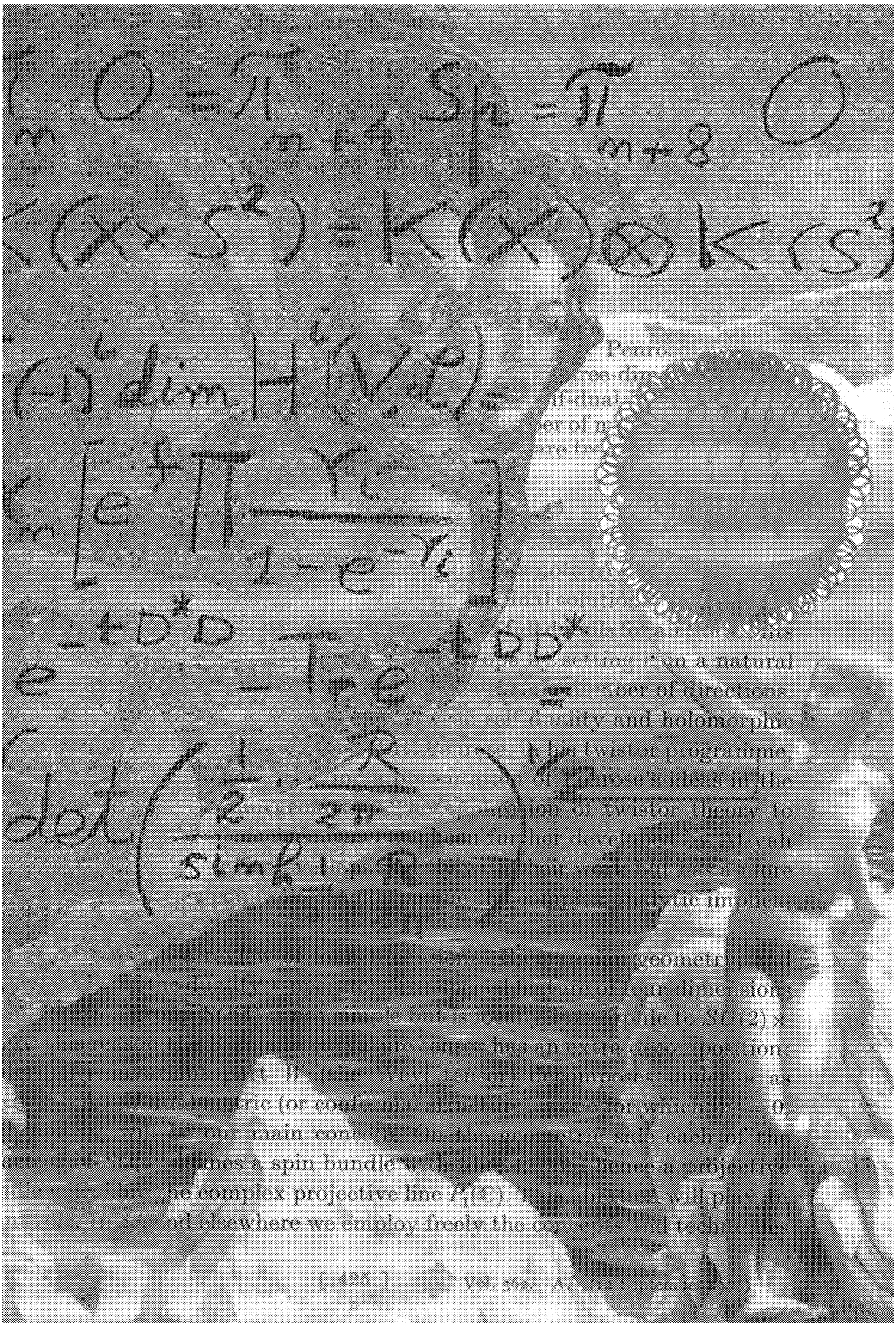

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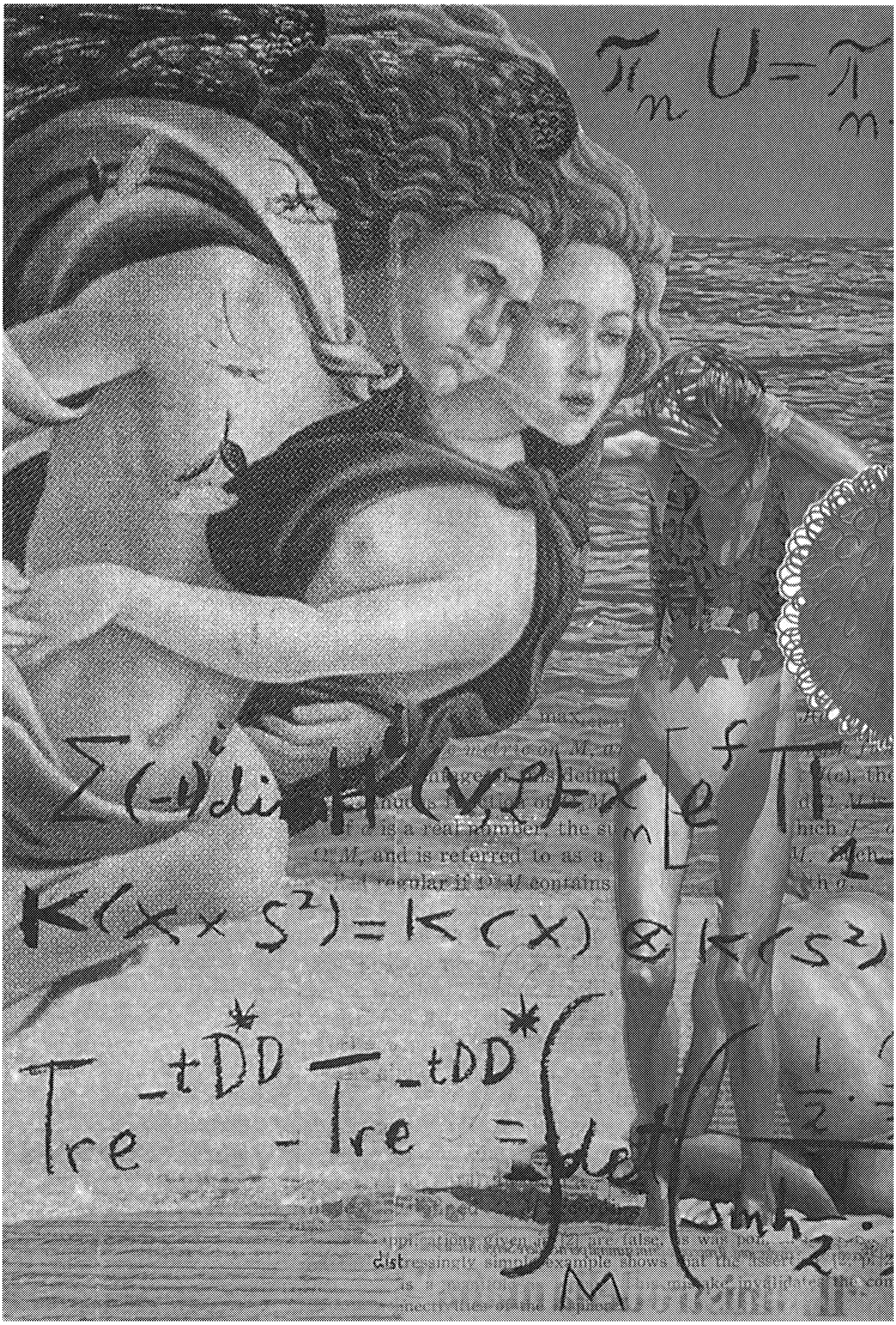

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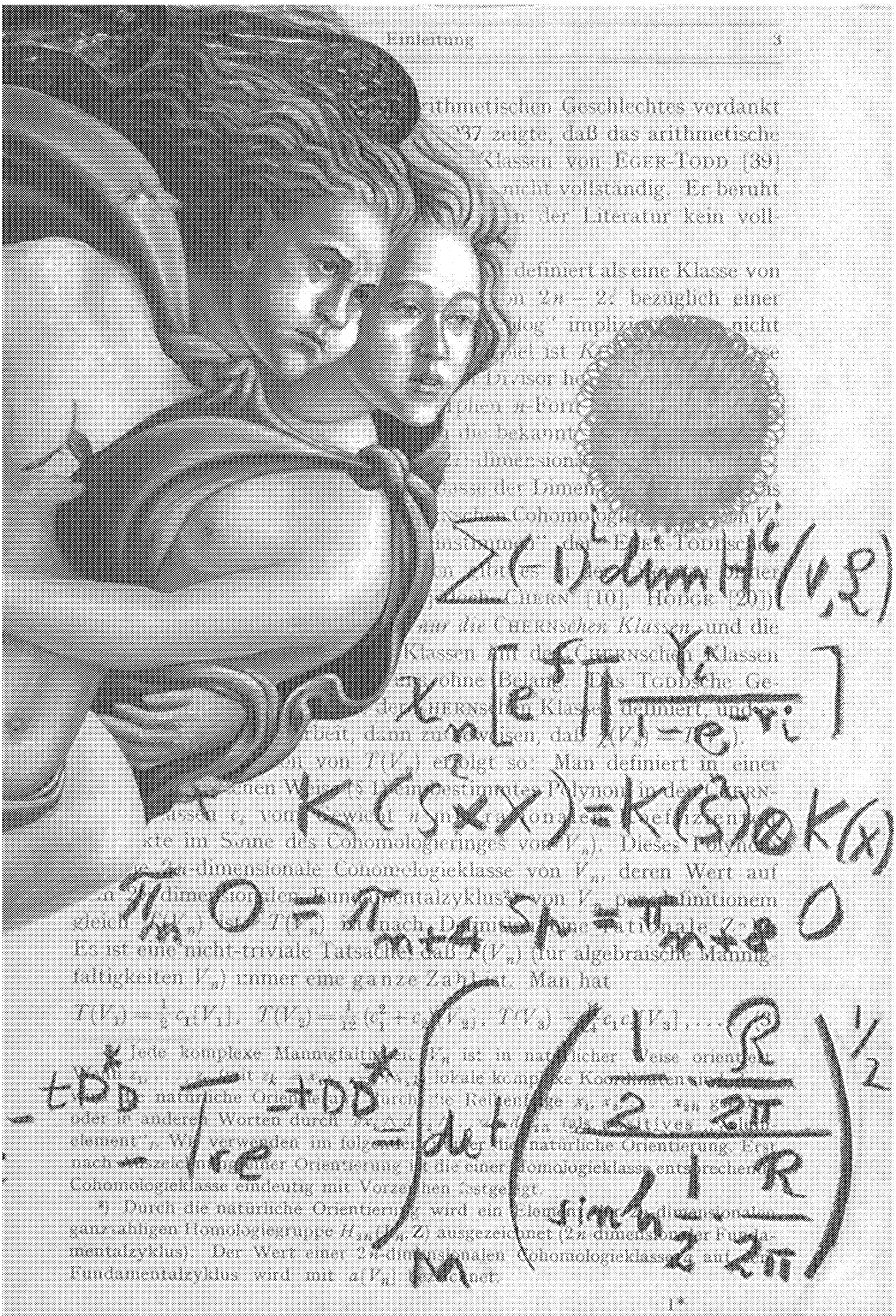

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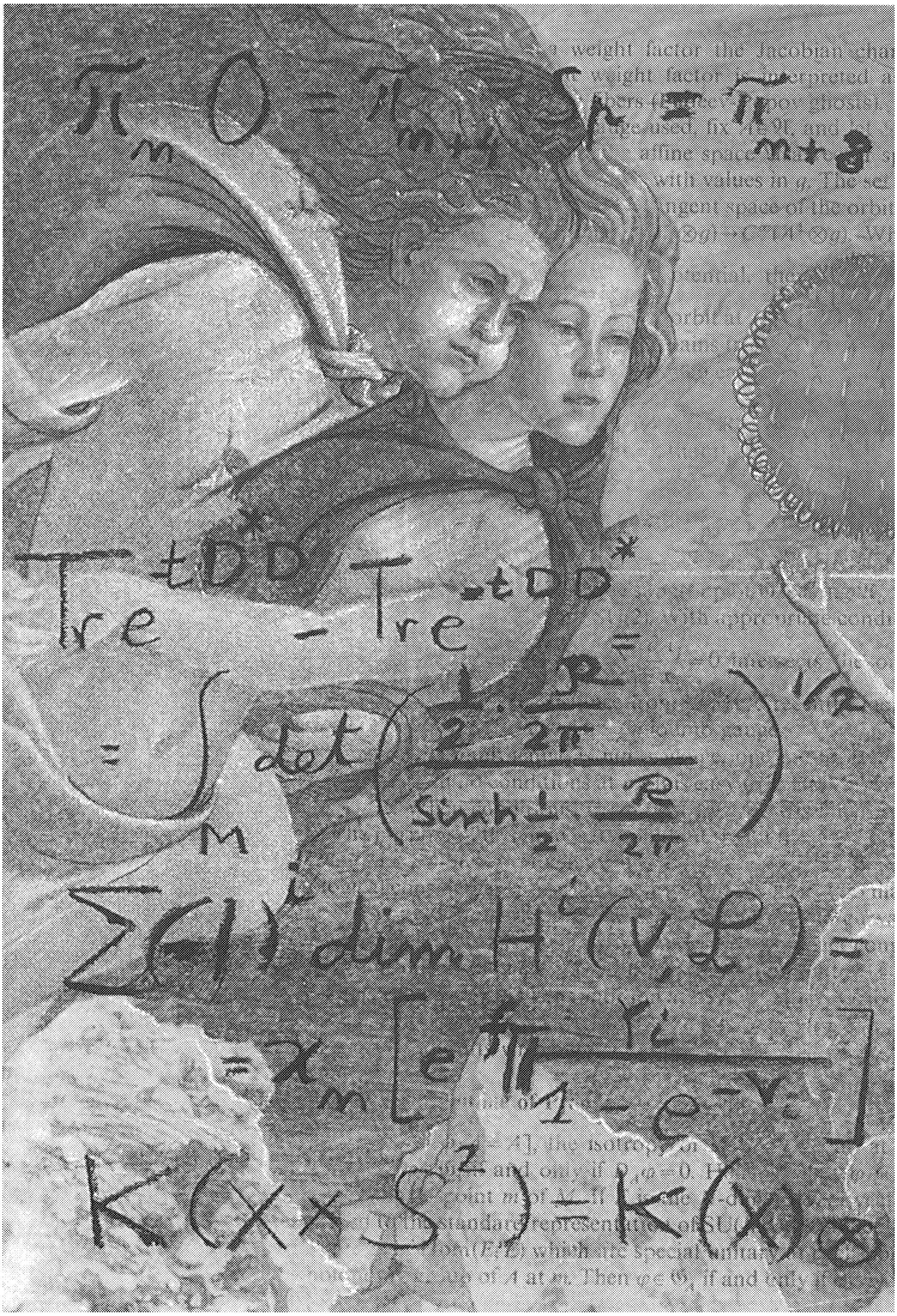

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Preface

This volume arises out of the conference sponsored by the Journal of Differential Geometry and held at Harvard University to honor the four mathematicians who founded Index Theory. A large number of geometers gathered for this historic occasion which included numerous tributes and reminiscences which will be published in a separate volume. The four men who together created Index Theory: Michael Atiyah, Raoul Bott, Frederich Hirzebruch, and Isadore Singer, were sources of inspiration, mentors and teachers for the other speakers and participants at the conference. The larger than usual size of this volume derives directly from the tremendous respect and admiration felt for the honorees.

Along with this volume, we give our best wishes to each of the honorees that they might have many more years to continue their own research and to inspire and encourage future mathematicians.

Sincerely,

S.-T. Yau