

Sonnet for Wolmer Vasconcelos

When Rees rings are thrust upon your perplexed mind
With dreams and algebras blowing up in fright
There is one to seek who is so very kind
That all your problems disappear from sight.
If divisorial questions of a categorical type
Or approximation complexes are making you nervous
I can justly state without the slightest hype
That Wolmer Vasconcelos can be of service.
He's done so much to influence us all
His colleagues, friends and students have come to speak
Their thanks for every time he's answered their call
And celebrate with Wolmer throughout this week.
With grace and warmth and brilliance he lets us see
What a scholar and mentor truly ought to be.

— Mel Hochster
Recife, August 12, 2009