

## Preface

International Astronomical Union Symposia on the Magellanic Clouds have achieved a pattern of being held somewhat more frequently than once per decade in alternating hemispheres. IAU Symposium 190, *New Views of the Magellanic Clouds*, held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada on 12-17 July, 1998 brought together nearly 200 people from 21 countries for intense scrutiny of the many new developments bearing on our understanding of the Milky Way's major satellite galaxies. The meeting was co-sponsored by the IAU, the Canadian Institute of Theoretical Astrophysics, the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Victoria, and the National Research Council (NRC) of Canada's Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics (HIA), whose headquarters are at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (DAO) in Victoria.

The organizers' hopes for a meeting brimming with new science and stimulating discussions were fully satisfied, thereby fulfilling two other goals. The first was to honour Dr. Sidney van den Bergh in the year of his official retirement from the National Research Council, where for nine years he was Director of the DAO. The second was to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the commissioning of the Plaskett Telescope, whose first spectrogram was secured on 1918 May 6. Although the Plaskett Telescope has never observed the Magellanic Clouds, its users have made major contributions to knowledge of the Milky Way to which the Clouds are bound.

The Scientific Organizing Committee was co-chaired by You-Hua Chu (USA) and Nicholas Suntzeff (USA), who were assisted by Enzo Brocato (Italy), Anne Cowley (USA), Kenneth Freeman (Australia), Paul Hodge (USA), Monica Rubio (Chile), Monique Spite (France), Lister Staveley-Smith (Australia), Nolan Walborn (USA), Douglas Welch (Canada) and Hans Zinnecker (Germany). The Local Organizing Committee was co-chaired by David Bohlender (NRC) and Jim Hesser (NRC), with assistance from David Crampton (NRC), Jay Gallagher (U. Wisconsin), David Hartwick (U. Victoria), Simon Morris (NRC), Brenda Parrish (NRC) and Don Vandenberg (U. Victoria).

The meeting format incorporated long poster sessions and various opportunities for informal discussions and socializing. These began with an opening reception hosted by NRC on a beautiful summer evening at the University of Victoria Faculty Club. The Sophisticates String Quartet composed of Sophia Darwin, Stephanie Côté, Anka Venema and Frank Younger welcomed participants with lovely classical music. To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the DAO, a mid-week luncheon was held at the Observatory followed by an open house. The HIA staff demonstrated their activities in submm, optical and far-ultraviolet instrumentation, data archiving and distribution, and operations of the Plaskett Telescope. In contrast to the weather throughout the week, this event was marked by unseasonably cool temperatures and a low cloud cover that blocked the spectacular views staff claimed are regularly enjoyed from Little Saanich Mountain! Within hours of completing the Observatory tour, excellent weather returned for the remainder of the meeting, including the Faculty Club banquet. Lively eastern European music provided by the Dumka Quartet comprised of Tony Booker, Tom Marcaccini, Alex Olson and Kate Rhodes preceded friends,

former students and colleagues who paid tribute to Sidney van den Bergh for his many achievements in international and Canadian astronomy.

We are saddened that two active participants in IAU Symposium 190, Jurij Frantsman and Rebecca Elson, are no longer with us; their strong presence helped make the meeting a scientific success.

We thank the staff of the Department of Physics and Astronomy for provision of Internet connectivity, and the HIA staff for their hospitality during the luncheon and open house at DAO. The Editors apologize for the delay in producing these proceedings. While some important papers indeed arrived late, other responsibilities prevented the prompt attention the proceedings deserved.

In addition to the sponsoring organizations, the organizers thank our volunteers, Rob Cardinal, Brad Cavanagh, Mike Letawsky, John Ouellette, Russell Robb, Carolyn Swerdlyk and James Taylor, for their services as audio-visual technicians, distributors of discussion sheets, and general sources of information for our visitors. We also thank Wolfgang Brandner, who contributed to meeting planning, and to Eva Grebel for her numerous contributions pre- and post-meeting. Brenda Parrish (NRC) assisted with many aspects of meeting planning and registration, and converted (often illegible) discussion sheets into text. Pat McGuire, Teresa McGuire, Victoria Emery and Ian Wong from the University's Conference Management Services provided efficient, friendly and professional support for the conference. Stéphane Courteau took the photographs included in these proceedings. It was our pleasure to have worked with such enthusiastic, capable, dedicated individuals.

*The editors:* You-Hua Chu, Nicholas Suntzeff, Jim Hesser, and David Bohlender  
October 1999

