

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR****"A Visual Atlas of the Large Magellanic Cloud"**

I have been a member of the AAVSO since 1976, and a member of the Variable Star Section of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand (VSS, RASNZ) since 1972. Since the mid 'seventies I have specialized in the production of charts for southern variables. These charts have been published by the VSS, RASNZ in many Series of Charts for Southern Variables. Recently, I have independently published an atlas for the region around the Large Magellanic Cloud, complete with photoelectric V magnitudes for many stars, thereby filling a gap which had been evident for many years.

A thorough description of the Atlas and the ways in which it may be used by amateur astronomers is given in a paper which appears in Publications of the VSS, RASNZ, No. 11 (C3), p. 62.

The Atlas accurately charts 117 square degrees of sky centered on the LMC, based on classical star catalogues (CoD, CPD, HD, and HDE), supplemented by modern catalogues of LMC members. Many additional field stars have been added from inspection of photographs from several sources. Basic details of the Atlas are:

Scale: 68"8 = 1 mm	No. of charts: 7
Equinox: 1950	Limiting magnitude: Varies (14 <sup>m</sup> )
Range: R.A. 04 <sup>h</sup> 30 <sup>m</sup> to 06 <sup>h</sup> 30 <sup>m</sup>	
Dec. -64° to -75°	

The following objects of astrophysical interest are plotted on the charts:

- (1) 277 of the brightest variable stars;
- (2) 454 star clusters and nebulae from the NGC, IC, and other catalogues;
- (3) all entries in several lists of LMC members;
- (4) 8742 field stars, of which 1140 have known V magnitudes, ranging from 4<sup>m</sup>3 to 13<sup>m</sup>9.

This Atlas presents the LMC in greater detail and at a better resolution than any other catalogue-based atlas. The extensive compilation of photoelectric V magnitudes presented in this Atlas is not available elsewhere.

A 30-page booklet accompanies the Atlas and contains five tables (some very extensive) which detail all the variable stars and nonstellar objects plotted in the Atlas.

Copies of the Visual Atlas of the Large Magellanic Cloud may be obtained by writing to me.

Price via Surface Mail: \$Austr. 10.00 per copy (approx. \$8.50 US)  
Price via Air Mail: \$Austr. 12.00 per copy (approx. \$10.20 US)

All orders should be accompanied by payment in check or bank draft, in Australian currency and payable to Mati Morel.

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