

ABOUT THIS 75TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

We are pleased to present this special issue of the Journal of the American Association of Variable Star Observers. It is part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the AAVSO and it contains a record of the celebration that took place during 6-9 August 1986 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The first major event of that celebration was the dedication, on Wednesday, of the newly acquired headquarters building, the "Clinton B. Ford Astronomical Data and Research Center," at 25 Birch Street. This dedication was attended by the Mayor of Cambridge and was highlighted by the speech of Dr. Riccardo Giacconi, Director of the Space Telescope Science Institute. A congratulatory letter to Clint Ford from the President of the United States was also read at that session.

On Thursday morning, a historical symposium titled "Variable Star Astronomy, Past and Present" organized and chaired by Dr. Martha Hazen was held, and that afternoon, the heads of amateur astronomer groups reported on "Variable Star Observing Around the World."

On Friday, an all-day scientific symposium on contemporary problems in variable star astronomy, organized and chaired by Dr. John R. Percy, was presented. On Saturday, a session for contributed scientific papers was held.

This issue contains the papers presented during these sessions, as well as the Annual Report of the Director of the AAVSO and reports from committee chairs.

The cost of publishing this extraordinary issue was covered by generous donations received from the community of professional astronomers, represented by the American Astronomical Society. The AAVSO, and astronomers around the world, are very grateful to the Executive Officer and members of the AAS, without whose outpouring of goodwill this issue would not have been feasible.

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