

GREETINGS

After spending 24 years as Director of the AAVSO, I decided to retire. It was with very mixed emotions that I made the decision, for my work with the Association has always been most satisfying, with never a dull moment. However, I felt it was really time to have a younger person take over the Directorship, and I would have more time to devote to special projects.

For several years I have been looking for possible candidates, and in 1972 I asked the AAVSO Council to set up a Search Committee. We announced the job opening to the American Astronomical Society placement bureau. Many applications were received. The list was narrowed down, and to my great delight, at the meeting of the AAVSO Council on Saturday 19 October, 1973, Mrs. Janet Akyüz Mattei was unanimously elected as the third Director of the AAVSO.

Mrs. Mattei's astronomical training and her research and teaching experience have fitted her well for the position. Her first introduction to the AAVSO (and to Michael Mattei!) was in 1969. As one of Dr. Hoffleit's assistants at the Nantucket Maria Mitchell Observatory, Janet was one of the hostesses for the AAVSO Annual Meeting, and she has continued her interest and appreciation of the work of the Association.

Newton and I have always considered the AAVSO as a major part of our family and have made many lasting friendships throughout the world. I am sure that AAVSO'ers everywhere will welcome Janet and Michael as part of the great family, and will cooperate with her in every way.

Margaret W. Mayall

As I take over this big responsibility I feel very honored to be elected to succeed Margaret Mayall. It is very fortunate to have predecessors like Leon Campbell and Margaret who have founded and brought the Association to its present state -- a state of which we all are proud.

It is indeed a great privilege to be the director of an Association which has such dedicated, enthusiastic and interested members. It is you who make this Association! Let us, together, continue to make the AAVSO the association which contributes very significant data to the astronomical world because of its members' "love of the Starry Heavens".

Janet Akyüz Mattei