

## PREFACE

In July 1992, Dr. Eugenio E. Mendoza V. decided to retire from the Instituto de Astronomía of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, after more than forty years of a very active and productive career at this Institution. It is easy to imagine how difficult must have been to make such a decision although it is very nicely counterbalanced by the promise of peaceful, but active research in his private office on Camino al Desierto Avenue in Mexico City. Those of us who have been his students and have known Dr. Mendoza for many years can predict that this new epoch in his astronomical life will be just as exciting and productive as it has always been.

To organize a Symposium in his honor was not only a pleasure, but also not a difficult endeavor, considering his many relations in the astronomical world and his many contributions to different fields of astronomy. This in itself may explain the broad title of this Symposium: Stars, Gas and Dust in the Galaxy.

The Symposium was held from August 24 to 27, 1993 in the Palacio de Minería, a beautiful historical building in the heart of Mexico City and the place where Dr. Mendoza had his first contact with Astronomy back in 1949.

Being Dr. Mendoza an enthusiastic observer all throughout his life as an astronomer, special care was given that all invited speakers be also very active observers. The Symposium was composed of 9 invited conferences, 25 oral presentations and 31 contributed poster papers. We would like to once again thank to all participants for making the Symposium a wonderful experience.

The Scientific Organizing Committee was formed by: A. Arellano Ferro (Mexico), C. Bertout (France), D.L. Crawford (USA), R.F. Garrison (Canada), G.H. Herbig (USA), P.C. Keenan (USA), A. Rolland (Spain), M. Rosado (Mexico), S.E. Strom (USA), and P.S. Thé (The Netherlands).

The Local Organizing Committee was integrated by: A. Arellano Ferro, C. Chavarría-K., L. Parrao, R. Peniche, and J.H. Peña. We thank all of them for their work and many useful suggestions.

We want to thank the Instituto de Astronomía, UNAM, Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Dirección de Asuntos del Personal Académico, UNAM, and the Coordinación de la Investigación Científica, UNAM, for sponsoring this event.

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Editors of the Proceedings