

PREFACE

Supernovae and their remnants play a vital role in the evolution of a galactic disk, both by injecting heavy elements and cosmic rays and by energizing the interstellar material through radiative and magneto-hydrodynamic processes. At the same time, the detailed state of the circumstellar and interstellar medium surrounding a supernova, sometimes modified by the progenitor star, determines the subsequent evolution of an individual remnant nebula throughout its lifetime. This mutual interaction was the theme for the International Astronomical Union Colloquium 101 held in Penticton, British Columbia from June 8 to 12, 1987.

One hundred and seventy thousand years ago a B3 supergiant exploded in the Large Magellanic Cloud. The light from SN1987a reached the Earth a mere three months before the Colloquium, with considerable effects on astronomy as a whole and on our meeting in particular. The results are plain to see in the proceedings that follow.

The Colloquium attracted 132 participants from 17 countries. Twelve invited review papers and 86 contributed papers were presented. All but five are published in this volume.

We are indebted to the members of the scientific organizing committee

Dr. S. van den Bergh - Canada	Dr. V.N. Fedorenko - U.S.S.R.
Dr. R.D. Blandford - U.S.A.	Dr. D.J. Helfand - U.S.A.
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Tom Landecker and Rob Roger