

This Volume is dedicated to the Memory of

**BART JAN BOK**

who's enthusiasm for the Southern skies, and for the Magellanic Clouds in particular, contributed mightily to the dramatic increase in our knowledge about the Galaxy's nearest neighbours, which is recorded in this symposium.

While he was Director of the Mt. Stromlo Observatory, Bart Bok organized two symposia on the Clouds of Magellan. The first of these, (Kerr and Rodgers, 1964) dealt with both the Galaxy and the Magellanic Clouds, whereas the second (Hindman and Westerlund, 1966) was entirely devoted to the Magellanic Clouds. The only other compendium devoted to the Clouds is the symposium organised in Chile in 1969 by ESO (Muller 1971) to celebrate the dedication of the European Southern Observatory. A fairly complete bibliography of LMC literature prior to 1964 can be found in the introduction to the LMC atlas by Hodge and Wright (1967). Similar data on the SMC up to about 1974 are provided in the introduction to the atlas for the SMC by Hodge and Wright (1977).

During the decade and a half since these symposia, our knowledge of the Clouds of Magellan has been revolutionized by the new generation of 4-meter class telescopes in Chile and in Australia, by the introduction of highly efficient panoramic detectors in optical studies, as well as by infrared measurements, new radio techniques and far-ultraviolet and X-ray studies of the Clouds from spacecraft. The present symposium is intended to review the progress made in the study of the Magellanic Clouds

Sidney van den Bergh

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