INTRODUCTION

The First European Meeting of the AAVSO, held in Brussels, Belgium, between July 24 and 28, 1990, was a milestone event in the history of the Association. This meeting, attended by about 170 amateur and professional astronomers, provided an excellent forum for very fruitful discussions between observers who contribute valuable observations of variable stars and astronomers who are users of these data. This Meeting was also unique for it brought together representatives of variable star observers' groups from around the world, and provided them with opportunities for the exchange of ideas and further cooperation and collaboration. Our sincere thanks go to the attendees and to the members of the Scientific Organizing, Regional, and Local Committees who helped to make this meeting a real success.

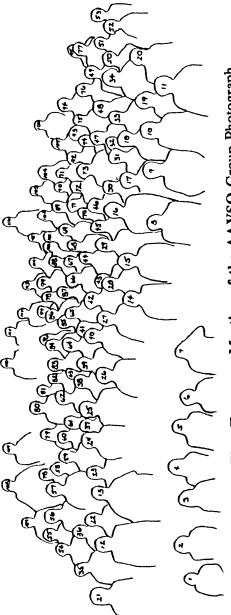
The schedule of this five-day meeting was full, with invited and contributed presentations and poster papers. The topics covered all aspects of variable star observations and research. The Proceedings of this meeting, titled Variable Star Research - an International Perspective, and Volume 19, Numbers 1 and 2, of this Journal are devoted to the presentations at the Brussels meeting.

The Proceedings, containing the longer presentations, is being published by Cambridge University Press, and will be distributed to the attendees of the Meeting free of charge, as part of their registration materials. Members who could not attend this Meeting will be able to purchase the Proceedings through the AAVSO. The contents of the Proceedings are listed on page 4.

Volume 19, Number 1 (this issue), of the *Journal* contains the majority of the scientific papers. Volume 19, Number 2, contains the remainder of the scientific papers, the Reports from the representatives of variable star observers' Associations from around the world, the Reports of AAVSO Committee Chairmen, the Treasurer's Report, and my Annual Report.

The two issues of Volume 19 of the *Journal* have a new look to them, published in a new format and produced using computer-based scanners, optical character recognition (OCR), and drawing software. We are grateful to Charles A. Whitney, our Editor, for initiating these new undertakings and contributing so generously of his time in preparing the materials for publication. Our sincere thanks go the Elizabeth O. Waagen, our Associate Editor, for her careful work, to Tanja E. Foulds, our Editorial Assistant, who has been responsible for the production of the *Journal*, and to Charles E. Scovil and Robert J. Leitner for their contribution in preparing the texts and the figures of the papers using OCR and computer-based scanner. We thank all the authors for their valuable contributions.

Janet A. Mattei Director



Key to the First European Meeting of the AAVSO Group Photograph

