

AAVSO 75TH ANNIVERSARY LETTERS

The following are among letters that Director Janet Mattei received from friends of the AAVSO around the world on the happy occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Association and the dedication of the new AAVSO Headquarters, the Clinton B. Ford Astronomical Data and Research Center.

From **Lawrence Aller**, University of California, Los Angeles: "The AAVSO has made a wonderful contribution to astronomy. We are now beginning to understand Mira variables...."

From **Alan H. Batten**, Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Canada: "It is with great pleasure... that I send my congratulations and good wishes on this auspicious occasion. Every astronomer who studies any kind of variable star has had occasion to be grateful to those who have contributed to the vast store of observational data accumulated by your organization - people who often have had no thought of using or interpreting the material themselves, but who have recognized the importance of recording the behaviour of individual stars. The value of your work is well illustrated by the series of monographs...that has now begun to appear, the importance of which has been recognized by the I.A.U.... I reminded you that the idea for an organization such as the A.A.V.S.O. seems to have originated with Argelander. I suggested that, if Pickering was the father, Argelander was the grandfather of the organization. May their friendly shades haunt your new building as surely as their spirits live on in your members!"

From **Roy L. Bishop**, President, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: "The AAVSO has a long and distinguished record of service to amateur astronomers and to astronomy. On behalf of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, I extend warmest best wishes to The American Association of Variable Star Observers on this doubly-significant occasion."

From **Ganesh Chanmugam**, Louisiana State University: "The AAVSO does yeoman service to the astronomical community and its work is much appreciated even by a theorist like myself. My congratulations to you and the AAVSO...."

From **George B. Field**, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics: "...I want to congratulate you and the other members of the Association on the acquisition of a new Headquarters Building. Even more, I want to say how important a role the Association has played in the development of astronomy.... Harvard is proud to have been the place where such a fine organization was born."

From **Andrew Fraknoi**, Astronomical Society of the Pacific: "...all of us at the Astronomical Society of the Pacific send the AAVSO our heartfelt congratulations."

From **Helen Sawyer Hogg Priestley**, University of Toronto, Canada: "Heartiest Congratulations to the AAVSO on this magnificent new home, and deepest gratitude to Clinton Ford who made it possible...."

From **Carolyn J. Hurless**, long-time AAVSO member and observer: "To all of you at this 75th Anniversary meeting Don and I send our love and greetings. To us the AAVSO has meant many wonderful friendships. We are with you in spirit as you begin yet another adventure in a new, beautiful home.... To have had the ability to contribute to such a storehouse of celestial knowledge for so many years has been a gracious gift I will always treasure...."

From **Carl F. Kurtz** of New Jersey: "I wish you every success and thanks to the many dedicated people who have given so generously of themselves over the years for AAVSO!"

From **Jean-Claude Pecker**, College de France: "...I want you to accept my very sincere congratulations. The American Association of Variable Star Observers, now an old lady, - still very young by its behaviour! - has done, during its first 75 years, a magnificent work, not only opening to many amateurs of astronomy the beauties of the heavens, but also contributing in the progress of one of the more important fields of stellar research. I wish more attention be given to these activities, which are basic, and which cannot be pursued behind the large telescopes or from space: the obstinate observation, on a regular basis, of variable stars (as well as of the solar features), is an essential item in understanding the celestial phenomena.... To the AAVSO, and to its Director and its members, I wish many more years of fruitful activity."

From **Dominique Proust**, Scientific Secretary, Association Francaise des Observateurs d'Etoiles Variables (AFOEV): "For the 75th Anniversary of AAVSO, and [in] the name of all the French observers of variable stars, I want to address to all our friends of AAVSO our best wishes. [For many] years, the collaboration between AAVSO and AFOEV [has been growing] more and more efficient and friendly. More and more, we are working all together to increase our knowledge in the variable stars phenomenology, and the contribution of all observers is fundamental. I invite...members of AAVSO [to come to France] in 1996 for our 75th Anniversary. Clear skies and good observations for ever."

From **Nancy Roman**, NASA: "Congratulations on the 75th birthday of the American Association of Variable Star Observers and on the dedication of your new Headquarters. May many Happy Returns of this day mark your continuing service to astronomy.... The responsible contributions of the many members of your Association have been of major...value to science. Few professional astronomers have not...sometime used your charts, observations, or light curves.... In these days of close-up pictures of planets, observations in exotic spectral regions, and telescopes above the atmosphere, it is easy to lose sight of the importance of continuous, apparently more mundane, observations. Nevertheless, the continuity, quality, and abundance of the observations by the members of the AAVSO and their careful archiving and easy availability provide support without which the more exciting observations would be less valuable."

From **Ernie R. Seaquist**, University of Toronto: "The AAVSO is one of the most important astronomical institutions in the world.... In my view the need for coordination between amateur and professional astronomers is going to increase rapidly. As more and more instrumentation in various other wavebands are [sic] constructed, the demand for coordinated optical observations will accelerate. Professional optical astronomers simply could not handle this increasing demand.... I am delighted that you will be dedicating your new Headquarters. As a radio astronomer, I hope that this means we can have even more extensive cooperation with the AAVSO in the future. Please convey my congratulations to your staff and to the many amateur astronomers so loyal to the pursuit of astronomy."

From **Michael Shara**, Space Telescope Science Institute: "...I want to express my thanks to you and your members for your constant support of variable star research and researchers. Your recent efforts during our IUE campaign to catch a dwarf nova are very much appreciated, and contributed greatly to the success of this large international collaboration.... Very best wishes for at least 75 more successful and productive years for the AAVSO!"

From **Sumner Starrfield**, Arizona State University: "I want to congratulate you and your members both on the dedication of the Clinton B. Ford Astronomical Data and Research Center and also on the 75th Anniversary of the Association. You have my best wishes for another 75

years and more of successful operation.... I am one of the Astronomers who depend heavily on the efforts of your members and I am extremely grateful that there are so many dedicated people in the AAVSO."

From **Jean-Pierre Swings**, General Secretary of the International Astronomical Union: "I take this opportunity...to wish you great success in your new building and in the 4th quarter of the century of existence of the AASVO...the IAU fully supports the excellent work of the AAVSO and...we wish you and your group great success in all your very interesting endeavors."

From **Paula Szkody, Ed Mannery, Bruce Margon, Paul Hodge, George Wallerstein, and Martin Ward**, University of Washington: "The astronomers at the University of Washington send our congratulations at the dedication of the new offices of the AAVSO. We hope to stop by when we are in town!"

From **Waclaw S. Szymanski**, on behalf of the Solar Observers Society, Poland: "Please accept our best wishes and congratulations on the 75th Anniversary of the AASVO. We wish you and all American observers clear skies and many years of successful work. Let the years to come be as successful as the past 75."

From **Gregg Thompson** of Australia: "I wish you and the AAVSO all the very best at the dedication and the Anniversary Meeting. Both are a tribute to the AAVSO."

From **Gary E. Tomlinson**, Astronomical League: "I...wish you and AAVSO a very joyous anniversary. I also thank AAVSO for all its help, cooperation and service to the astronomers of the world."

From **Frank N. Traynor**, British Astronomical Association, New South Wales Branch, Australia: "On behalf of the members of the New South Wales Branch of the British Astronomical Association, congratulations to your organisation on its 75th anniversary.... At the end of the next 75 years, I am willing to bet, the Astronomical Community will have even more reason to be thankful to the AAVSO."

From **George de Vaucouleurs**, University of Texas: "A long-time friend of AAVSO, I will be with you in spirit...all best wishes."

From **Roberto Viotti and Michael Friedjung**, CNR Astrofisica, Italy: "On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the AAVSO, we would like to express our appreciation of the very valuable work performed by your association. This has been very useful for our studies of variable stars...."

From **J. Craig Wheeler**, University of Texas at Austin: "The AAVSO data...are a gold mine, an exciting challenge to which the theory has yet to adequately respond. Congratulations on seventy-five years of valuable contributions to astronomy."

From **Fred L. Whipple**, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics: "Having been associated in one way or another with the AAVSO for all but 20 of its 75 years, I can only say that I admire the great work you have done.... May the next 75 be even better."