DEDICATION

This symposium is dedicated to the memory of Harold L. Johnson, an early pioneer in the field of infrared astronomy, who died on April 2, 1980, in Mexico City at the age of 58.

Dr. Johnson was known as the founder of the UBV photometric system which is universal in astronomy today. He later expanded this system into the near infrared region with the addition of the R, I, J, K and L photometric colors which extend out to a wavelength of 4 μm. He was awarded the Helen B. Warner Prize by the American Astronomical Society in 1956 for his work in photometry and extinction measurements of standard stars. Harold Johnson's career was marked by his ability as an innovator. He had a major influence in introducing modern electronic techniques into the field of astronomy. Later in his career he made important contributions to the development of infrared Fourier transform spectroscopy as a reliable and productive astronomical technique.

Harold Johnson in many ways made the connection between the new field of infrared astronomy and traditional optical astronomy. As a respected practitioner of optical astronomy he was able to extend optical techniques into the infrared. This, as well as his instrumental innovations, made infrared techniques an essential part of modern astronomical observations.

Harold Johnson will be remembered by many friends as a person who was always willing to help, especially those just starting their careers. He would always give his honest opinion, a trait which offended some but was sincerely valued by many more. Astronomy has truly lost a person of integrity and a giant in the field. As a measure of this loss, the International Astronomical Union's Symposium 96 on Infrared Astronomy is dedicated to his memory.