

## PREFACE AND DEDICATION

This issue is the first of several issues that are devoted to the proceedings of the First International Conference on Comet Hale–Bopp, held at Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands during the week of 1998 February 2–5. Making the initial arrangements for the publication of these proceedings in *Earth, Moon, and Planets* was one of the last actions taken by Professor V. Vanysek as editor of the journal prior to his death. These proceedings are therefore dedicated to Professor Vanysek, whose obituary was published in volume 76, number 1.

The manuscripts for the proceedings have been subjected to the normal refereeing process, and papers which were incomplete or which were progress reports of ongoing projects appear here as extended abstracts of one or two pages. The contributed papers for the proceedings will appear as several issues of the journal, of which this is the first. The manuscripts have been grouped topically. The present issue contains all papers about the nucleus plus papers about orbits, ions, and x-rays. The next triple issue will carry the papers about gas and about dust. The invited reviews will appear last as a triple issue.

The editors (undersigned) are grateful to the many people who served diligently as referees as well as to the organizers of the meeting itself which was an exceptional experience for all the attendees. We hope that the quality of the papers in these proceedings will be a suitable testament to the quality of the meeting.

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