

Preface

This special issue of the *The Journal of the Astronautical Sciences* contains papers presented at the AAS George H. Born Symposium held May 13–14, 2010 at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado, to honor Prof. Born for his many contributions in the areas of precision orbit determination, interplanetary mission design, satellite navigation, and satellite oceanography, and for his special contributions as a teacher.

George H. Born received his Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1968. He was employed at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston during the Apollo Program. In 1970 he joined the Jet Propulsion Laboratory where he served as a Technical Group Supervisor in charge of orbit determination for the Mariner 9 and Viking missions to Mars and the Geophysical Evaluation Manager for the Seasat Project. The Seasat spacecraft, which flew in 1978, carried the first suite of microwave instruments for monitoring the global oceans. As Geophysical Evaluation Manager, he was in charge of the efforts to demonstrate that the instrument package containing a radar altimeter, windfield scatterometer, synthetic aperture radar, scanning multichannel microwave radiometer, and a visual and infrared radiometer, met all specifications for measuring geophysical parameters over the ocean. These included sea surface topography, sea surface temperature, atmospheric water vapor, and ocean surface imaging.

In 1983, he became a Senior Research Engineer in the Center for Space Research at the University of Texas at Austin. In 1985, he joined the Aerospace Engineering Sciences Department at the University of Colorado as a professor, and founded the Colorado Center for Astrodynamics Research, which he directs. Since 1990 he has supervised 34 PhD graduates and many MS students. He has been a principal investigator on the TOPEX/Poseidon and Jason-1&2 ocean altimetry missions. His research interests are interplanetary mission design, satellite navigation, and satellite oceanography. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and has received the Mechanics and Control of Flight Award. He is also a Fellow of the American Astronautical Society and has received the Dirk Brouwer Award. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

The authors and editors dedicate this special issue to George H. Born for being a leader in the astrodynamics community and an inspiring mentor and teacher. We

thank the authors for contributing excellent technical papers to the symposium and to this special issue.

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