



## Luminous Stars in Nearby Galaxies

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Perhaps the greatest uncertainty in all of astrophysics and especially in stellar structure and evolution, is distance. This is especially true for the most massive, most luminous stars that may be at very large distances in our own galaxy. Studies of stellar populations in nearby galaxies thus have the advantage that all the stars are at the approximately the same distance, a distance that is relatively well known, especially in comparison with the uncertain distances of individual stars in our own galaxy. Surveys and the subsequent spectroscopy of massive stars in different stages of stellar evolution in the relatively nearby resolved galaxies have revealed a complex distribution in the luminosity–temperature plane, the HR Diagram. The purpose of this volume is a current review of the different populations of evolved massive stars. The emphasis is on massive stars in the Local Group; the Magellanic Clouds and the nearby spirals M31 and M33.

Prof. Roberta M. Humphreys  
*Guest Editor*





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