The Historical Astronomy Division was founded in 1980 to represent the number of historical and related interests of the American Astronomical Society, including scholarly research in the History of Astronomy, Archival Astronomy, the application of early astronomical records in modern research, and the archiving and preservation of astronomical materials. An organizing committee was appointed by the AAS Council and in 1980-1981 drew up the by-laws that now govern the Division. Members of that original committee were Owen Gingerich, Kenneth Brecher, Richard Berendzen, Phillip Morrison, Woodruff Sullivan, and John Eddy. In 1980 the first regular officers were elected and appointed at the 157th Meeting of the AAS in Albuquerque in January 1981. They are Eddy, Chairman; Gingerich, Vice-Chairman; Brecher, Secretary-Treasurer; and John Carlsson and David Marky, Councilors.

The First Meeting of the Division was held on January 12, 1981 in Albuquerque in connection with the 157th Meeting of our parent Society. A full day of papers was presented, including invited talks by Brecher, Rant Zek, Von de Chamberlain, W. H. Donahue, Kendrick Frazier, Gingerich, W. G. Hovst, J. Lankford, and P. Williamsson. On January 11 the Division sponsored a field trip to the Anasazi site at Chaco Canyon, northwest of Albuquerque, arranged by Michael Zeilik.

John A. Eddy
Chairman

PLANETARY SCIENCES DIVISION

In 1981, the Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) finds itself in the same ambiguous state as the scientific discipline it represents. The culmination of twenty years of spacecraft exploration of the solar system took place in 1980-81 with the two spectacular Voyager encounters with the Saturn system, following closely upon Voyager Jupiter, Pioneer Venus, and Pioneer Saturn. An unprecedented number of discoveries, and masses of data that will require additional years of analysis, will result from these missions and from vigorous ground-based studies, including heavy use for planetary observing of the 3-m IRFII in Hawaii and the 10E satellite. Public support for planetary exploration is also at an all-time high, as witnessed by cover stories in TIME and NEWSWEEK, the popularity of the COSMOS television series, success of the Viking and Halley Bands, and the growth of The Planetary Society to 100,000 members within a year of its foundation.

Ironically, this apparent strength comes at a time when planetary science is under severe political and financial attack. NASA support for solar system exploration has steadily declined, with only a single mission in the new start--Galileo--since FY 1975. Galileo itself still lacks an adequate launch vehicle, and it may not reach Jupiter until the end of the decade. In the latest round of FY82 budget cuts, NASA even considered the outright elimination of the planetary program, including the Voyager spacecraft still enroute to Uranus and Neptune. At a time when NSF and other budgets are also in decline, concern over the future of planetary science has nearly over-shadowed the triumph of recent discoveries and has spurred the DPS to increasing levels of involvement in both public education and political action.

The 1981 annual meeting of the DPS was held in Pittsburgh on 12-16 October with about 300 registrants. B. Mayke of U. Pittsburgh headed the local organizing committee, while M. Belton of KPNO was program chair. A Special Voyager/2 Saturn session, organized by E. Stone of Caltech, as well as an emotional evening session on public policy and planetary exploration, attracted widespread interest from the national press as well as Division members. The next DPS meeting will be held in Boulder 19-22 October 1982, with L. Espostio and R. West, both of U. Colorado, as local host and program chair, respectively. The 1983 meeting will be 17-20 October in Ithaca, and tentative plans are to meet in 1984 in Hawaii and 1985 in Baltimore.

At the Calgary AAS meeting the DPS sponsored a half day session highlighting recent results in planetary science, and a similar session is planned for Troy in 1982. The Division has also taken action to enfüranchise Affiliated Members and to initiate one or two annual prizes in planetary science. Two DPS members have been nominated by petition to run for AAS office in an effort to increase Division contact with the rest of the AAS: M. Belton for Vice President and D. Morrison for Councilor.

New officers for the DPS are M. Belton (KPNO), Chair; C. Chapman (PSI), Vice-Chair; Committee Members R. Beebe (NMSU) and C. Pilcher (U. Hawaii), and Press Officer R. Greenberg (PSI). Other members of the Division Committee are L. Wilkening (University Arizona), Secretary-Treasurer, D. Morrison (U. Hawaii), Past-Chair, and J. Borgstrahm (NASA HQ), J. Burns (Cornell), J. Elliot (MIT), and E. Stone (Caltech). Retiring from the Com-