

## PREFACE

Recognizing the exceptional contributions that Constance van Eeden has made to the development of statistics at Université de Montréal and knowing that she would turn 75 in 2002, we planned an event honoring her. With the support of the Director of the Centre de recherches mathématiques (CRM) of the Université de Montréal, we organized a two-day conference. It took place at the CRM on May 24–25, 2002.

Given CRM's experience in publishing, we immediately thought of providing a more permanent testimony to Constance by preparing a companion festschrift volume. To increase the potential readership, we also contacted the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS). The project was enthusiastically endorsed by the CRM and the IMS, and by all those consulted. The CRM and the IMS agreed to publish it jointly. We thank Jacques Hurtubise, Director of CRM, and Joel Greenhouse, Editor of the IMS Lecture Notes Monograph Series, for their support throughout this project.

The potential contributors were selected according to one or more of the following criteria: specialist in a field related to Constance van Eeden's work, colleague or friend of Constance, prominent Canadian statistician, or member of Constance's scientific family tree. Some 35 researchers were invited to submit a paper: very few declined, all with regret. The willingness with which so many senior researchers accepted this invitation underlines the very high regard by which Constance van Eeden is held in the statistical community. This was very encouraging for the organizers, but came as no surprise to Constance's former students. We warmly thank all contributors.

All papers were refereed. We thank the referees who accepted to write reports within the somewhat tight deadlines.

This volume was typeset using  $\text{\LaTeX}$  from the files sent by the authors. We would like to thank CRM's André Montpetit for his help in preparing the final versions of the files.

The 28 papers included in this volume cover a wide range of topics, reflecting the broad interests and statistical culture of Constance van Eeden. We are confident that each reader will find something of interest, and that Constance will appreciate the tribute the authors have paid her.

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March 2003