

Preface

First and foremost, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the distinguished authors of this volume, to Joel Greenhouse and Rick Vitale, the Editors of the IMS Lecture Notes and Monograph Series, to Elyse Gustafson, to the referees of the papers, and to the people at Mattson Publishing Services and VTEX who worked dedicatedly and diligently in order to make this a reality. This book is a team effort. I must express my very special thanks to one person: Geri Mattson. I could write a poetic paragraph to thank her; let me simply say she is unreal. I am also thankful to Kristy Brewer, Rebekah Holmes, Teena Seele and Norma Lucas for editorial support at Purdue University. They were smilingly helpful at all times. Finally, I thank my teachers and friends T. Krishnan, B.V. Rao, Jim Pitman and Jenifer Brown for their help and support.

The quality of the papers in this Festschrift, to my pride, joy, and satisfaction, is very high. I looked through every paper in this volume. A large number of the papers are very original. Some open a window to a major area through a well presented review. The articles reflect the main themes Herman Rubin has contributed to over half a century. I am so thankful that the authors gave quality papers; it was magnanimous.

When, in March, 2003, I approached the IMS with a proposal for a Festschrift for Herman Rubin, two emotions were playing in my brain. I have had an affectionate relationship with Herman for about a quarter century now. But I was also mindful that the man is a rare scholar, in the finest tradition of that word. Herman could have had a few hundred more papers if he had insisted on getting credit for all he did for the rest of us, without ever asking for it. Now that's unselfish. I am honored and I am delighted that the IMS Festschrift for Herman, a fully deserved honor, even belated, is now in print. I speak for a community when I wish Herman a happy, healthy, and intellectually fulfilling long life. Herman, as Herman Chernoff said, is indeed a national treasure.

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Editor