provide an update of our present knowledge in this rapidly evolving field.

The book is the collection of the review and contributed papers presented at the Workshop. It is divided in a traditional way in two main parts: observations and theoretical aspects. The observational review provide the main new results concerning the X-ray binaries and the binary and millisecond pulsars, including the surprising discovery of 11 millisecond pulsars in a unique globular cluster, 47 Tucanae. The remaining two thirds of the volume is devoted to the current and abundant theoretical discussions. The main chapters concern the formation and evolution of neutron star in binaries, the supernovae phenomena with a special emphasis on the accretion-induced stellar collapses, the pulsar velocities, neutron star interior structure and the disk-magnetosphere interaction. The contributions, all of very high quality, are bracketed by a preface and concluding remarks which serve as an useful guide for a non-specialist reader. The book is however mostly at destination of workers in the field.

**DAPNIA/SAp, CE Saclay**

J.-M. Bonnet-Bidaud

at Gif-sur-Yvette


The book by A. L. Peratt, on *Physics of the Plasma Universe* addresses the principles and applications of plasma physics for astrophysics, in 8 chapters: (1) Introduction to Cosmic Plasma fundamentals, (2) Applications to magnetic-field aligned currents and particle beams, (3) Magnetic forces in cosmic plasmas, (4) Electric fields, (5) Double-layers in Astrophysics, (6) Also, useful appendixes cover: transmission line concepts in space plasmas; polarisation of plasma waves; dusty and grain plasmas; units and constants. For each chapter a list of general and specialized references is given. The plasma principles, equations and cosmic applications are well described and clearly derived for use by the student and the researcher as a reference. The interest and pleasure of the reader is also enhanced with well chosen astrophysical examples, many useful tables and 208 illustrative figures and diagrams.

**ESA, SSD/Solar System Division**

B. H. Foing

at ESTEC Noordwijk