

PREFACE

The IAU Symposium 109, sponsored by IAU Commission 24 and co-sponsored by Commissions 8 and 40, was originally scheduled to be held in Merida, Venezuela, but eventually took place at the University of Florida in Gainesville from January 9 to January 12, 1984. The Scientific Organizing Committee consisting of Peter Brosche (FRG), John Davis (Australia), Jean Delhaye (France), Erik Høg (Denmark), James A. Hughes (USA), C. Andrew Murray (UK), Dimitri D. Polozhentsev (USSR), Jurgen Stock (Venezuela), Catherine Turon (France), Arthur R. Upgren (USA), Gart Westerhout (USA), Arno Witzel (Germany, FR), and Shu-Hua Ye (PRC), was chaired by Heinrich Eichhorn (USA). The Local Organizing Committee (chaired by Robert J. Leacock) included, in addition, Jeanne Kerrick, Carl Cole, Billy Cooke, Lance Erickson, Mary Jane Taylor, Wan-xian Wang and James Webb. The following chaired sessions during the Symposium: Shinko Aoki (Japan), Wilhelm Gliese (Germany, FR), Bernard Guinot (France), Kenneth Johnston (USA), Jean Kovalevsky (France), Kaj Aa. Strand (USA), George Teleki (Yugoslavia), and William van Altena (USA).

All papers included in this volume were refereed. A significant part of them were not appropriate for publication as originally submitted, mostly for reasons of language. Some were therefore heavily edited. The papers originally submitted in Russian were translated into English by Eva Eichhorn. Many of the papers were retyped at the Department of Astronomy of the University of Florida.

The authors of several papers which were read chose not to publish them in these Proceedings. They are listed by the name of the (principal) author in alphabetic order.

The order of the papers in this volume is essentially that in which they were read during the symposium, except when this would have placed a paper into a category in which it would obviously not belong.

The Symposium voted to encourage an inquiry into the state of the plates that had been exposed for the catalogue and for the charts of the Carte du Ciel (Astrographic Catalogue). This inquiry was carried out by Carlos Jaschek (Strasbourg) and Heinrich Eichhorn; this volume also contains a report on the results.

The scientific sessions of the Symposium were recorded. The tapes and other pertinent materials have been deposited with the Library of the University of Florida.

Finally, it is our pleasant duty to thank the US National Science Foundation and the IAU, both of whom have supported the Symposium by grants (NSF: AST 8314561). Our Assistant Editor, Mrs. Jeanne M. Kerrick, has labored many hours beyond the call of duty over the difficult and tedious task of securing the contributions from the authors, overseeing the typists and compiling the manuscript for publication and helped in many other ways.

Gainesville, November 1985

Heinrich Eichhorn

Robert J. Leacock