

SPECIAL SESSIONS

**THE COLLISION OF COMET P/SHOEMAKER-LEVY 9
WITH JUPITER**

Chairperson and Editor: **C. DE BERGH**

SPECIAL SESSION ON THE COLLISION OF COMET P/SHOEMAKER-LEVY 9 WITH JUPITER

A special session on the collision of the comet P/Shoemaker-Levy 9 with Jupiter was organized on very short notice to present the first results of this exceptional event. This collision had occurred between July 16 and July 22, just one month before the General Assembly of the IAU. Effects of this collision were still apparent a few months later. This session was held on the afternoons of August 18 and August 20, 1994. Twenty-three oral presentations and four poster presentations were given. In addition, several videos were shown. Ground-based observations from many different sites were presented, as well as observations from the Hubble Space Telescope, the Galileo spacecraft, the International Ultraviolet Explorer and the Kuiper Airborne Observatory. The observations covered a very wide range of wavelengths, from the ultraviolet to the centimetric. Preliminary models of the phenomena were also proposed. This session provided an excellent opportunity for the observers to compare their results, and allowed the first comparison with theoretical predictions. The session was extremely well attended, particularly on Thursday afternoon when the spectacular images from the Hubble Space Telescope were shown and discussed.

The organizers of this session were: C. de Bergh (Observatoire de Paris, Vice-President of Commission 16), D. Morrison (NASA/Ames, President of Commission 16), M. A'Hearn (University of Maryland, Vice-President of Commission 15) and A. Harris (NASA/JPL, President of Commission 15).

Extended abstracts of some of the presentations are given here. They include the results of the more refined analyses that have been made since the IAU General Assembly. Many more years of work will be required to analyze and compare the data collected all over the world during this fantastic week and the months that followed. Several special issues of scientific Journals are in preparation, in particular a special issue of "Earth, Moon and Planets" and a special issue of "Geophysical Research Letters". Several specialized meetings are also planned, including a European meeting at ESO in February 1995 and an IAU Colloquium in Baltimore in May 1995.