

EDITORIAL AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Papers presented during I.A.U. Colloquium No. 107 were of two kinds: invited papers, whose authors were allowed half-an-hour for presentation and contributed papers which were presented only as posters. The distinction is made clear in this printed record by the space allotted to the two types of paper. Authors of invited papers were initially given ten pages each, although some flexibility was allowed. The Editor is grateful to those authors who kept within this limit, thus enabling him to indulge those who found it harder to be concise. Poster papers were limited to one page, although a few have spread to two. Authors of these papers have obviously had to content themselves with publishing only abstracts, and this should be kept in mind by readers who were not at the colloquium and were therefore unable to read and to discuss the papers in more detail.

Invited papers are presented in this volume in the order that they appeared in the conference programme. With one exception, this was the actual order of presentation. The exception was a switch forced by the unavoidable late arrival of one invited speaker: it seemed right to the Editor to exercise his privilege of interfering with the historical record and to restore the originally intended and more logical order. Of course, the discussions following the two papers affected might well have been different if the switch had not been made. Each invited paper was followed by up to fifteen minutes of discussion, which was recorded both on tape and paper. Summaries of these discussions appear after each invited paper (except that the three papers by Heintze and Van Gent were in fact presented in one time-slot and the discussion appears only at the end of the whole group). The summaries were made by the Editor, using both kinds of record to guide him. Although the Editor tried to keep close to the actual words used by participants, the discussion summaries are not verbatim. He has again used the privilege open to an editor, but not to a session chairman, of regrouping questions and comments so that one topic is dealt with at a time. Sometimes, a comment has even been taken from discussion after one paper and put after another to which it seemed more relevant. Although some of the liveliness and humour of the discussions has inevitably been lost through the use of indirect speech, we believe that considerable space has been saved. If the Editor has unwittingly put something stupid or wrong into the mouth of any participant, he apologizes: all participants are free to blame him for such lapses, whether or not the fault is really his. A few invited papers arrived in their final form after the discussion had been transcribed. The author had modified his paper in the light of the discussion and this may explain why some questions or comments seem superfluous. The order

in which poster papers are printed is approximately that in which they appeared in the programme and is basically alphabetical by the name of the author we expected to be presenting the paper. There are some changes, however, and the final order is somewhat arbitrary: no significance should be read into it. In order to speed publication, a number of minor typographical errors have not been corrected in the camera-ready text.

The names of members of the scientific and local organizing committees appear on another page. Many of the former committee also served as session chairmen. In addition to the members of the two committees, the following have helped in various ways during and after the colloquium: Joanne Baer, Peter Bergbusch, David Duncan, David Holmgren, Yola Hurwitz, Meng Lu and Alison Neale. We also wish to express our appreciation of the Manager and staff of Dunsmuir Lodge, the conference centre of the University of Victoria, whose work behind the scenes did so much to create a pleasant environment for the participants.

The colloquium and printed proceedings are dedicated to Frank Bradshaw Wood, in recognition of his lifetime of work on close binary systems in general and Algols in particular. Many of Brad Wood's friends, colleagues and former students took the opportunity afforded by the colloquium to make a presentation to him. His reply took the form of a brief survey of the development of the study of Algol stars and is printed here before the record of the colloquium proper.

A.H. Batten, Editor
C.D. Scarfe, Chairman, Local
Organizing Committee