

## EDITOR'S FOREWORD

The idea of holding a colloquium on Schmidt telescopes (techniques and science) originated from the observation that, in the last ten years and in spite of the remarkable developments and achievements in this field of astronomical research, there had been no specific opportunity for the experts to meet together, make the point on the state of the art, discuss and coordinate future plans. Therefore, Prof.L.Rosino, one of the pioneers in the use of wide-field telescopes, driven also by the wish of honouring the over four decades of activity of the Asiago Observatory, proposed to the Executive Committee of the International Astronomical Union to sponsor a colloquium on 'Astronomy with Schmidt type telescopes' to be held at Asiago at the end of the summer of 1983. Details about the composition of the Scientific Organizing Committee and the sponsoring organizations are given in Prof.Rosino's 'Welcome to the Participants'. The granting of this proposal was the beginning of a number of headaches for the members of the Local Organizing Committee, R.Barbon, F.Ciatti, P.Rafanelli and myself. If, organizationwise, the colloquium was successful, this is truly due to the generous efforts of my colleagues of the SOC and to the efficient organization of the Linta Park, the hotel hosting the meeting.

During four days of constant rain (and with few breaks for some sober social events), the 120 participants from about 30 countries gave rise to a lively meeting, full of interesting contributes and ponderous lectures. All of the papers and posters but one were collected in this book.

Unfortunately, one of the highlights of the meeting, the 'Joint Discussion' led by R.Kron, was not included (except for a couple of bites scattered here and there), since in general the speakers did not provide the texts of their remarks. As an important remnant of the discussion, however, there is the 'Resolution' opening this volume. Another excellent contribution which is missed is the summary of the poster papers by R.Cannon. It was not requested for publication since the posters themselves are present in these proceedings.

After the addresses to the participants by Prof.Rosino, director of the Asiago Astrophysical Observatory, Dr.R.West on behalf of I.A.U., and Prof.L.Merigliano, Rector of the Padova University, the scientific work was opened by a lecture of Prof.L.Woltjer, who also took the hard task of summarizing the meeting. Except for the two papers of Prof.Woltjer, the order of most of the other contributions was modified according to editorial reasons. Therefore, the Table of Contents can not account for the chairmen of the sessions (Prof.J.Bahcall, Dr.V.Blanco, Dr.R.Cannon,

Prof.G.de Vaucouleurs, Prof.C.Fehrenbach, Prof.E.Khachikian, Dr.S.Marx, Prof.B.Takase and Prof.L.Woltjer) whose experienced guidance of the discussion is gratefully acknowledged.

In closing, I wish to thank all those who helped me in the preparation of this volume, particularly Drs. E.Held and R.Rampazzo.

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