

PREFACE

The idea of a symposium devoted to the contemporary knowledge of the world of Copernicus – the planetary system – to commemorate the 500th anniversary of his birth, came during the XIV General Assembly of IAU in Brighton. The Executive Committee has approved it in the program of the Extraordinary (Copernicus) General Assembly of IAU in Poland in 1973.

The IAU Symposium No 65 (Copernicus Symposium IV) on the 'Exploration of the Planetary System' was held in Copernicus' native town – Toruń, Poland, from 5th to 8th September, 1973 under the auspices of Commissions 16 (Physical Study of Planets and Satellites) and 40 (Radio-astronomy) and the co-sponsorship of COSPAR. There were about 140 invited participants from 29 countries and about the same number of other participants to the Extraordinary General Assembly of IAU who came to Toruń to attend the sessions of this symposium. Special funds of the Polish Academy of Sciences made possible the participation of several young astronomers in this meeting.

We are very grateful to Professor P. Swings, the Director of the Astrophysical Institute of the University of Liège, Belgium, for accepting the task of chairing this symposium. His expert and enthusiastic guidance helped us constantly in the preparation. The efforts of the Members of the Scientific Organizing Committee are also very much appreciated. Special thanks are due to Professors A. Dollfus and T. Owen.

A number of review and introductory papers were invited but the participants were also allowed to submit the papers of their own choice. The final program was organized in 12 sessions devoted to particular scientific subjects. The sessions were chaired by P. Swings, A. Woszczyk, W. A. Baum, H. C. van de Hulst, W. Brunk, A. Dollfus, I. K. Koval, J. H. Smith, D. Menzel, T. Gehrels, T. Owen and G. S. Golitsyn. We regret that several colleagues were prevented from coming to Toruń at the very last minute.

For all Polish Copernicus symposia and the Extraordinary General Assembly of IAU one Local Organizing Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. J. Smak was formed. I am very grateful to my colleagues Dr A. Stawikowski and Dr A. Czacharowski as well as to Mrs U. Kucza and Mr M. Kaczmarek, and to other members of the University staff, who helped me in the local arrangements in Toruń, and to Dr C. Iwaniszewska and my colleagues from the Toruń Observatory for their help in the smooth running of the Symposium. The financial assistance of the Polish Academy of Sciences in the local arrangements is very much appreciated. We met constant encouragement from Professor W. Iwanowska, the Director of Toruń Astronomical Observatory and from the academic authorities of Copernicus University. The local city and provincial authorities made a great effort helping us in the prepara-

tion of the accompanying cultural and social programs. We wish to thank them for the hospitality to the participants.

We also wish to thank Drs Louise and Andrew Young who acted as referees for many papers.

Finally, I address my warmest words of thanks to my wife Irene who very efficiently assisted in all stages of the preparation of the symposium and of the editing of this volume.

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