

OPENING ADDRESS BY:

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Uppsala University it is a great pleasure for me, as my first official duty as rector of this 501 years old university, to extend a most hearty welcome to all of you participants in this symposium on Refractive Influences in Astrometry and Geodesy. I understand that this symposium is a joint meeting sponsored by the International Astronomical Union and the International Association of Geodesy at the invitation of the Swedish National Committee for Astronomy and the Swedish National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics. I welcome especially the president of the IAG, professor T.J. Kukkamäki, and the presidents of special study groups in IAU and IAG, dr G. Teleki and our own professor E. Tengström, who also have acted as presidents of the Scientific Organizing Committee and the Local Organizing Committee of this symposium, respectively.

I understand that the topic of this symposium is of utmost importance to solve common problems in geodesy and astronomy with main emphasis on the use of dispersion methods for determining refractive effects in astronomy and geodesy. In the field of astronomical refraction I have been told that scientists in Japan have made very important contributions and it is therefore with great pleasure we welcome the presence of professor C. Sugawa at this symposium.

Uppsala University last year celebrated its 500 years anniversary under the leadership of our great past president, professor Torgny Segerstedt, a scientific year with a series of symposia and congresses in different fields with participation of 6000 scientists from all over the world. We are glad that these activities continue and that you have chosen Uppsala as the place for your symposium. A university never can be proud of age alone. Scientific traditions must be matched by front-line activities in many fields to prove the value and youth of a university in the international scientific community. In your field of interference between Geodesy, Meteorology and Astronomy our own university institutions have made important new contributions especially through professor Tengström and professor Liljequist and their coworkers. The presence of so many

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E. Tengström and G. Teleki (eds.), Refractive Influences in Astrometry and Geodesy, xv–xvi.
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young active foreign scientists here at this symposium I take as a proof of the international acceptance of the quality of their work in your respective fields here in Uppsala.

We thank our guests, foreign and inland, for coming to our university. Though 500 years old with your astronomical measures measured, it is comparatively young - especially in spirit we hope.

With the rapid expansion of knowledge in all fields of basic and applied research it is not surprising that in all countries the university student number has increased rapidly during the last two decades. It immatriculated at this university nearly the same number of students as was immatriculated during the previous 475 years of this university's existence. I do not need to stress that quantity may create problems for quality. That is why we are so thankful for the necessary international cooperation. International contacts stress the need for quality in higher education and research and demonstrate that quality in these important fields never can be judged by national but only by international standard.

Finally, at this occasion, let me wish you all a prosperous scientific meeting and rewarding days here in Uppsala. If these will be memorable for you, your host university will feel amply rewarded. If the conference will give you new ideas and encouragement for future work, I am sure the organizers will feel equally rewarded. I take this opportunity on behalf of the university to thank them. You name them yourselves but I include all members of the Local and Scientific Organizing Committees for their work.

Thank you and very welcome!