

PREFACE

The idea of the symposium came during the XVIIth General Assembly of the IAU at Montreal. The Working Group on Be stars adopted both the proposal of holding a meeting, and of having it at the Universitätssternwarte München.

The meeting was organized under the auspices of IAU Comm. 29 (Stellar Spectra) and the sponsorship of Comm. 45 (Stellar Classification). The Scientific Organizing Committee was composed of Mercedes Jaschek (chairman), W. Bonsack, C. de Loore, A. Feinstein, H. G. Groth, P. Harmanec, L. Houziaux, A. M. Hubert-Delplace, L. S. Luud, A. Slettebak and A. Underhill.

The members of this committee are to be thanked for their devotion to the organization of what turned out to be a very successful meeting. The program was organized on an observational approach, comprising sessions on photometry, polarization, spectroscopy, infrared observations, rotation and binarity, X-ray observations, UV observations and mass loss, and atmospheric models. Each session started with an invited summary paper, followed by a number of contributions. The different sessions were chaired by A. Feinstein, R. Stalio, C. de Loore, Ch. Fehrenbach, J. P. Swings, C. Jaschek, A. Sapar, G. T. Traving, M. de Groot and H. G. Groth.

Upon request of the Working Group, a special session was devoted to bibliographic problems and observing campaigns.

The Dean of the Faculty for Physics of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität welcomed the participants at the beginning of the Symposium. The meeting was closed by a summary talk, delivered by T. P. Snow. The local organization was handled very efficiently by the Local Organizing Committee composed of H. G. Groth (chairman), M. Jaschek, K. Metz and P. Wellmann. The work of the committee was greatly helped by the collaboration of a number of volunteers from the Institut für Astronomie und Astrophysik of the University of München.

The presence of participants from many countries was supported by financial aid from the International Astronomical Union and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. The meeting took place, free of charge, at the Mathematisches Institut of the University of München. We thank all these institutions for their support.

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