

## Preface

The idea of holding a colloquium on stellar photometry in Dublin had its origin in the historical interests of Russell Genet and the editors. The seed of the idea was sown at a meeting of the Astronomical Science Group of Ireland in September 1985 when John Butler gave a talk on the early electrical measurements of starlight which were carried out in Dublin in August 1892 and three years later at Daramona Observatory in County Westmeath. With Russell Genet's enthusiastic support it was agreed to mark the centenary by a meeting to assess current techniques and to study possible future developments. The meeting was supported by Commission 9 (Instruments and Techniques) and Commission 25 (Photometry and Polarimetry) of the International Astronomical Union which granted colloquium status. The Colloquium was preceded by a three-day workshop on robotic observatories which was held in Kilkenny (29–31 July) and was attended by 27 participants.

The main credit for the scientific content of the Colloquium must go to the Scientific Organising Committee and especially to Andrew T. Young who chaired it. We thank our fellow members: E. Budding, V.I. Burnashev, D.L. Crawford, R.F. Garrison, R.M. Genet, I.S. Glass, J.A. Graham, J. Tinbergen and B. Warner for their assistance in drawing up the programme. We are grateful also to the persons who chaired the sessions: M. de Groot, D.L. Crawford, J.D. Fernie, I.S. Glass, R.F. Garrison, P.A. Wayman and C.L. Sterken.

For hard work and good advice in making the local arrangements we thank the other members of the Local Organising Committee: P.A. Wayman (Chair), D.L. Weaire and E. O'Mongain. We thank Miss M. Heanue and her team of students and also Mr W. Dumpleton for practical help during the meeting.

We acknowledge the generous support of the following: Aer Lingus, Bord Failte, EOLAS, Bristol Myers Squibb, the Royal Irish Academy, Siemens Ireland Ltd., the Ulster Bank, Optronics Ireland, Fred Hanna Ltd., AGB Scientific, Mason Technology, T.S. Maharry, R.G. Tennant and T.K. Laidlaw. In particular, we are grateful to Trinity College for recognising the Colloquium as part of the College's Quatercentenary celebrations and for making available a lecture theatre and other facilities. One of the chief aims of the organisers was to bring together experts from East and West and this was facilitated by a grant from the International Astronomical Union towards the travel and subsistence expenses of thirteen participants.

The Colloquium was opened by Prof. T.D. Spearman, M.R.I.A., Vice-Provost of Trinity College who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Royal Irish Academy and Trinity College. A highlight of the Colloquium was the illustrated historical review, *Photoelectric Photometry – The First Fifty Years*, given by Dr John B. Hearnshaw which is reproduced in this volume. Most of the participants took the excursions to the megalithic monuments of the Boyne Valley or to the monastic site at Glendalough; afterwards an informal evening reception was held at Dunsink Observatory. The following evening the deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin received the

participants at the Mansion House; the Hon. Mrs. W. Tirikatene-Sullivan from New Zealand replied on behalf of the guests. Later that evening there were three short talks on *Archaeoastronomy in Ireland* given by Dr Tom Ray, Mr Frank Prendergast and Prof. Patrick Wayman. The Colloquium closed with a banquet in the College Dining Hall; the company was entertained by a witty speech from Prof. Gordon Herries Davies and by a recital on the Irish harp by Ms. Fionnuala Monks. After the Colloquium, some thirty participants took a coach tour to Armagh where they visited the Observatory, the Planetarium and sites of historic interest.

This volume contains only the review papers and oral contributions; the poster papers will be published separately as *Poster Papers on Stellar Photometry, IAU Colloquium 136* by the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. Our thanks are due to Miss A. Brannigan of Armagh Observatory for assistance in preparing the manuscripts for publication. The proceedings of the Kilkenny Workshop on Robotic Observatories is edited by M.F. Bode and B.P. Hine and will be published by Ellis Horwood.

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