

## PREFACE

At the XIX General Assembly in Buenos Aires it was announced that the format of future General Assemblies would be changed and that Symposia would be held concurrently with the Assemblies and not as satellite meetings as had been the custom previously. On the flight back to New York I thought about what topic might be good for a meeting at the XXII General Assembly. The most important topic to me was the new technology that has developed as a result of the invention of CCDs and Arrays. CCD and Array detectors have become the detectors of choice at optical observatories over the world. Direct imaging, photometry and spectroscopy are all vastly improved as a result. Observations can be made of faint and crowded objects that one could not even consider measuring before the advent of the CCD. The accuracy of photometric and spectroscopic measures has increased dramatically. Small telescopes can now do research projects that used to be possible only on the larger telescopes. I thought that the General Assembly in The Hague would be an excellent forum for the meeting and would have a great potential for interactions between the members of many different commissions, astronomers working with the devices and people who design and manufacture the devices.

Commission 45 (Stellar Classification) was the official commission sponsor of the meeting. Co-sponsors were Commissions 8, 9, 15, 16, 20, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 37 and 42. The institutions that sponsored the meeting were:

The Institute for Space Observations	Schenectady, New York
The European Southern Observatory	Garching, Germany
Union College	Schenectady, New York
Van Vleck Observatory	Middletown, Connecticut.

The Scientific Organizing Committee was composed of the following:

A. G. Davis Philip	Chair
Sandro D'Odorico	Co-Chair
Michael Bessell	Australia
Andre Blecha	Switzerland
Roberto Bonanno	Italy
Edward Bowell	USA
Martin Cullum	Germany
Lief Helmer	Denmark
Hugo Levato	Argentina
David Monet	USA
Lloyd Robinson	USA
Marcello Rodono	Italy
Richard West	Germany
Andy Young	USA

The Local Organizing Committee was composed of the following:

Jaap Tinbergen	Chair
Christiaan Sterken	Belgium

No List of Participants is available for printing in the proceedings volume. The IAU presented a list of 300 astronomers who had indicated their interest in attending the meeting but we have no way of determining which people actually were present.

Special thanks are due Mary Bongiovanni who collected the discussion sheets, typed them up and then passed them back to speakers for corrections. The discussions were in almost final form by the end of the meeting. The IAU Executive Committee assigned some Dutch astronomers to help us in running the daily affairs of the meeting. They were a great help and I want to thank Marco Kouwenhoven, Frank Molster, Nick Schutgens, Robert van Eysbergen and Pieter Veen for their fine work. Sandro D'Odorico was a great help in organizing the meeting and was in charge of the European side of things. The European Southern Observatory supported the meeting financially and also printed abstract booklets, containing abstracts of oral and poster papers, for distribution to participants. Immo Appenzeller, who opened the meeting with a short speech of welcome, gave very useful advice in the early stages of planning for the meeting. My two co-editors found many things to correct, from grammar, spelling to problems with references. Kristina Philip also helped as a proofreader.

The final discussion was prepared at the Moletai Observatory in Lithuania and mailed from there to authors. Papers were submitted on floppy disks or sent via email to Schenectady. WordPerfect 6.0b was used to edit the ASCII versions of the submitted papers. Proofs were sent back to each author and then authors emailed their corrections back to Schenectady. This cooperation between the editors and authors is a necessary part of preparing an accurate transcript of the meeting and all who participated in the effort are thanked for their help.

The cover photo shows a CAD view of part of the new ESO detector head (taken from D'Odorico's paper, page 15).

Schenectady  
April, 1995

A. G. Davis Philip