

Foreword

Symposium 204 of the International Astronomical Union, “The Extragalactic Infrared Background and Its Cosmological Implications”, was held on the days of August 15 to 18, 2000, as part of the 24th IAU General Assembly convening in Manchester, UK. This Volume includes the written versions of all of the invited talks, as well a sizeable number of abstracts of selected posters whose authors were invited to give five-minute oral presentations about their work. Lively discussions followed many of the talks, and the discussants were asked to record the essence of their comments. Though incomplete, because some of the comments were left unrecorded, these are attached in the “Discussion” sections that follow many of the talks and provide a sense of the flavor of the Symposium. During the Symposium, several topics were chosen for extended general discussion, and these discussions are summarized as separate “General Discussion” items.

The talks contain a large number of acronyms, most of which were known to the attendees but which might make the articles difficult to read for those not as familiar with the field. For them, we have included a list of the more commonly used acronyms at the end of this Volume.

We owe a debt of thanks to the Local Organizing Committee in Manchester, which was always ready to help, to the staff of the International Astronomical Union’s Paris office, who answered so many of our procedural questions, to the staff of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, who patiently worked with us to publish this Volume, and to the Scientific Organizing Committee listed below. We also thank the many authors who made their manuscripts available on time and guided us through the technical difficulties of assembling their articles into a uniform text. A special note of thanks is also due to Dr. Harry Payne of the Space Telescope Science Institute, who helped immensely with the final formatting of this Volume. Without the dedicated help of all of these individuals this book could not have been produced.

Martin Harwit and Michael G. Hauser, editors

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