

PREFACE

During the XVIth General Assembly of the I.A.U., at Grenoble in August 1976, an informal meeting was held to discuss high angular resolution optical interferometry. Brief reports from seven groups in Australia, France, the U.K. and the U.S.A. were presented and the ensuing discussion revealed a number of common interests and problems that made an extended meeting desirable. A proposal by the Sydney University group for an international meeting on the subject was strongly supported and, with the recommendation of the President of Commission 9, Professor J. Ring, the outcome was I.A.U. Colloquium No.50 on "High Angular Resolution Stellar Interferometry", held at the University of Maryland from 30th August - 1st September, 1978.

The Colloquium was attended by 60 participants from Australia, France, Monaco, the United States, the United Kingdom and West Germany. The meeting was opened by Professor F.J. Kerr, Acting Provost of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and Engineering, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the University of Maryland. 34 contributions (including 20 invited papers) were presented in 9 scientific sessions and a final scientific session took the form of 3 invited summaries and an open discussion. During the Colloquium visits were made to the United States Naval Observatory, Washington and to the University of Maryland Amplitude Interferometer at the Goddard Optical Research Facility.

The success of a meeting depends to a large extent on the organizing committees and the participants but it often owes a lot to a few people whose contributions are less obvious. In this latter category are Mrs. J. Zubkoff who manned the registration desk throughout the meeting, R.H. Braunstein, J.L. Johnson, K.M. Liewer and D. Wellnitz, who between them projected the slides and recorded the discussions, Dr. G. Westerhout, for organizing a most enjoyable visit to the U.S. Naval Observatory at short notice and to Professor P.A. Wayman, Assistant General Secretary of the I.A.U., for his advice and guidance during the organization of the meeting.

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