

FOREWORD

The IAU Symposium No. 77 on "Structure and Properties of Nearby Galaxies" was held in Bad Münstereifel, F.R.G., from 22 - 26 August 1977. The Symposium was financially supported by the IAU, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft.

The aim of the Symposium was to compare recent high-resolution radio continuum and HI-line results on nearby galaxies with both new and established optical material and with recent theoretical work. Over 100 astronomers actively working in these fields discussed the "state of the art" from their various points of view. The Symposium was sponsored by IAU Commissions 28 and 40. The Scientific Organizing Committee consisted of R.J. Allen (Chairman), K.C. Freeman, I.V. Gossachinski, G. Monnet, J.H. Oort, M.S. Roberts, S.E. Strom, A. Toomre and R. Wielebinski. In order to limit the scope of the Symposium the S.O.C. ruled that nearby galaxies have distances of 0.5 to about 15 Mpc; consequently topics mainly concerned structural features occurring on length scales ranging roughly from 0.1 to 50 kpc.

The Local Organizing Committee was formed by R. Wielebinski (Chairman), Elly M. Berkhuijsen, Gabriele Breuer (Conference Secretary) and W. Sieber. Especially during the Symposium the L.O.C. was greatly helped by N. Bartel, R. Beck, D.T. Emerson, H. Hoech, U. Klein, H. Kühr and Anne Vogt. Their help has been essential to the smooth run of the conference. We also wish to acknowledge the pleasant cooperation with the very able staff of the "Colonia Schulungszentrum" and its excellent facilities.

The Proceedings were made from camera-ready manuscripts according to the new IAU rules (1971, Transactions of the IAU vol. XIV B, p. 287). The speakers have prepared their own manuscripts. Manuscripts of invited papers are published as they were received, essentially in the order of their presentation at the Symposium. In a few cases references were retyped, and some minor corrections made. Because short contributed papers are considered to be part of the discussions their abstracts were retyped, but their titles were kept and are given in the Table of Contents. They were rearranged with part of the discussions in order to increase the coherence and readability. The discussions were produced from the discussion sheets received from the participants after the sessions and/or from the tape recordings. Answers from speakers were taken from the tape recordings or from their written answers sent to us upon request. We are to blame for any mistakes, omissions or inconsistencies that the reader may find.

The S.O.C. was ably assisted by Joke Nunnink. Vicky Sherwood mastered the difficult task of typing out the tape recordings. Gabriele Breuer not only solved many organizational details before and during the Symposium, but also typed the manuscripts of the discussions; her amazing skill and pleasant cooperation has been of invaluable help to us.

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Elly M. Berkhuijsen
Richard Wielebinski