

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

As Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee I wish to extend to all Symposium Participants a hearty welcome to Uppsala. I hope that your stay here will be enjoyable, also profitable from a scientific point of view. All the meetings will take place in the main building of the Uppsala university, today used mostly for administration purposes; the number of students has grown to 25000. In the immediate neighborhood you may find a number of university buildings of historical interest, the oldest of them dating back to the 16th century. As you may know already, the university was founded in 1477, and it thus belongs to the comparatively few European universities that were started in the Middle Ages.

Astronomy has been taught at this university since the beginning. According to lecture notes preserved from the 1480's the three main subjects at that time were theology, philosophy, and astronomy. Among the well-known astronomers I may mention Anders Celsius, the originator of the 100-degree thermometer scale more than 200 years ago. The observatory that he built in 1739 is still standing in the central part of Uppsala. It may be noted that the ångström unit was, in a way, born here at Uppsala; Anders Ångström, associate professor in astronomy and later on professor in physics, was the first spectroscopist to refer his wavelength measurements to the metric system.

It has been possible for us to arrange rooms for you all at the same place, the Waldenstrom Student Hotel. We hope that you will find these student rooms comfortable, and the practical arrangements convenient. If you have any problems that you want to discuss, or any complaints to make, please do not hesitate to talk to me or to any other member of the local staff. We are all recognized by red name badges. Thank you.

ERIK HOLMBERG