

WELCOME

Jürgen Rahe
Dr.-Remeis Sternwarte Bamberg
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Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Vice-President, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues -

On behalf of the Dr.-Remeis Observatory Bamberg, Astronomical Institute of the University Erlangen-Nürnberg, I would like to welcome you to IAU-Colloquium No. 69 on "Binary and Multiple Stars as Tracers of Stellar Evolution". It is the 7th International Astronomical Conference organized by our Institute, and the fourth sponsored by the International Astronomical Union. The first conference was organized by Professor Strohmeier in 1959 and dealt with Variable Stars. The last one was held in 1979 and dealt with space experiments.

The first IAU-Colloquium took place August 11-14, 1965, and dealt with "The Position of Variable Stars in the Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram". During the second, IAU-Colloquium No. 15, August 31 to September 3, 1971, "New Directions and New Frontiers in Variable Star Research" were discussed. The third, IAU Colloquium No. 42, was held September 6-9, 1977, and dealt with "The Interaction of Variable Stars with their Environment".

The idea for the present Colloquium arose actually last year (1980) when Professor Kopal and I met on a beautiful Spring day in Washington. When presenting this plan to several colleagues, we received only favorable responses and we decided to pursue the idea. A scientific organizing committee was soon established, consisting of Drs. Z. Kopal (U.K.), Chairman; M.K.V. Bappu (India); J.D. Fernie (Canada); R. Kippenhahn (F.R.G.); M. Kitamura (Japan); L. Milano (Italy); R.E. Mustel (USSR); S.L. Piotrowski (Poland); M. Plavec (U.S.A.); A. Rigutti (Italy); V. Vanýsek (Czechoslovakia); B. Warner (South Africa).

Over the years our Institute has received the continuous support of the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg and the city of Bamberg. This, and the assistance rendered by the University of Bamberg and the IAU, has enabled us to organize such meetings.

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I am pleased and honored to welcome here today, representatives of the city of Bamberg, the University of Bamberg, and the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg.

Since 1959, every meeting organized by our Institute has actively been supported by the city of Bamberg. You will especially enjoy the already traditional "Frankonian evening" in the historical surroundings of the city, offering a glimpse of the hospitality of Bamberg and its citizens. I am very pleased to welcome here today Mr. Rudolf Grafberger, Mayor of the City of Bamberg.

During the last conferences and this meeting, the University of Bamberg has allowed us to use their facilities, and I take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks. It is my pleasure to welcome here today the Vice-President of the University of Bamberg, Mrs. Professor Annegret Bollée.

I welcome and introduce to you, Professor Nikolaus Fiebiger, President of the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, an internationally well-known experimental physicist. I am proud to say that he has for years supported the activities of our Institute. Some months ago Professor Fiebiger was re-elected as President of the University and I heartily congratulate him - and us - on this occasion.

Professor Zdenek Kopal as you know, is Chairman of the Scientific Organizing Committee for this meeting. He has been a very special friend of our Institute and it is an honor to prepare this meeting with him.

If one would write a Michelin guide - not to restaurants - but to astronomical meetings, I am sure one would easily agree on the following scheme: many astronomical meetings deserve at least one star - that is, according to the Michelin guide, they are worth a stop. Many other meetings deserve two stars - that is, they are worth a de-tour. But meetings organized by Professor Kopal, always deserve three stars - that is, these meetings are worth a whole trip. If I look at the audience, and the program, I am convinced you will all agree with me.

Finally, I hope we will all profit from these days of interesting scientific discussions among colleagues, who over the years have become friends, and add new ones when meetings such as this take place. I personally thank you for coming and with all members of our Institute, wish you a very pleasant and rewarding sojourn in this historical city.

The following institutions generously supported the meeting: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Bonn. International Astronomical Union, Paris. Stadt Bamberg. Universität Bamberg. Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg.