

PREFACE

The present volume of *Space Science Reviews* is devoted to the Proceedings of the Third Symposium on Ultraviolet and X-Ray Spectroscopy of Astrophysical and Laboratory Plasmas. The symposium was held at Utrecht in The Netherlands, August 24 to 26, 1971, and was arranged by members of the Astronomical Institute under the direction of Professor C. de Jager.

The two previous meetings in this series were held at Culham Laboratory, England in 1966 and at the University of Maryland in 1968. The success of these meetings lies largely in bringing together workers in the two areas of laboratory and space spectroscopy who are working on common problems of understanding high temperature plasmas. As an example, several contributors at Maryland drew attention to the soft X-ray satellite lines, as then seen only in laboratory plasmas. The present meeting contains a number of papers reporting similar observations from space plasmas, together with a quantitative interpretation of the intensities – work initiated in many cases as a direct result of the discussions at Maryland.

The invited papers are mostly published in full in these proceedings. For the contributed papers, the authors have prepared special summary versions for this volume. In addition, the discussions after all the papers are included.

I would like to thank all the authors for their help and cooperation in preparing the manuscripts; also members of the Local Organizing Committee, and in particular Dr K. A. van der Hucht, for their efficiency in documenting the discussion. We are also indebted to Professor C. de Jager and the Editorial Staff of *Space Science Reviews* for their efforts in publishing this volume.

A. H. GABRIEL
(Scientific Editor)

*Astrophysics Research Unit
Culham Laboratory,
Abingdon, Berks. England*

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