

FOREWORD

The colloquium on white dwarfs reported in this book was held at Dartmouth College 14 - 19 August 1988 and was jointly sponsored by Dartmouth College and the International Astronomical Union as IAU Colloquium Number 114. Over the years, there have been a number of international meetings devoted to white dwarfs, and the proceedings of such gatherings document the steady increase in our knowledge of these objects. Perhaps the beginning can be placed with the International Colloquium on Novae and White Dwarfs held in Paris in 1939 (Shaler 1941), followed by IAU Colloquium No. 42 (Luyten 1971) which took place in St. Andrews and IAU Colloquium No. 53 in Rochester (Van Horn & Weidemann 1979). There have been a number of other conferences on white dwarfs. These include the European Workshops beginning with the 1974 Kiel meeting, and the Delaware workshops, the first taking place in 1980. Numerous other meetings on related subjects such as faint blue stars and planetary nebulae have also taken place. Each meeting has been typified by the unusually good relations and camaraderie of the people who work on white dwarfs.

The Dartmouth meeting resulted from the Delaware workshop held in Montreal in June 1983 when I promised to host a meeting in Hanover. However, in early 1986 when I was planning it, Brian Warner suggested to me that another IAU colloquium on white dwarfs was due and that it would coincide nicely with the Baltimore General Assembly in 1988. The first step was to form a Scientific Organizing Committee and the following people kindly consented to serve as members: F. D'Antona (Italy), G. Fontaine (Canada), D. Koester (U. S. A.), J. Liebert (U. S. A.), J. Pringle (U. K.), G. Shaviv (Israel), H. M. Van Horn (U. S. A.), G. Vauclair (France), B. Warner (South Africa), R. Wehrse (F. R. G.), V. Weidemann (F. R. G.), and G. Wegner (U. S. A., Chairman).

Next, endorsement for the colloquium had to be obtained from commissions of the IAU. The present meeting was held with the sponsorship of the following IAU Commissions: 29 (Stellar Spectra), 35 (Stellar Constitution), and 36 (Theory of Stellar Atmospheres).

The Local Organizing Committee consisted of: F. I. Boley (Chairman), G. Wegner, R. K. McMahan, J. R. Thorstensen, and D. Mook. A number of other people worked very hard to make the meeting happen. Kay Wegner and Josef Wegner handled most of the details of the mailings, printing programs, finances, and organization of social activities. The Dartmouth Conference Center was responsible for the dormitory arrangements. Several others helped in ways crucial at the time: Steve Swanson, Ralph Gibson, Fred Ringwald, Robert Hamwey, May Suzuki,

Connie Elder, and Judy Lowell. Prof. John Cummins delivered the after dinner speech, "Ripples: A View from the Outside", which was enjoyed by all present at the banquet held at the Dartmouth Outing Club. The United States Park Service gave a special tour of the Saint Gaudens Historical Site for our delegates. We are most grateful to all of those named above for their efforts in our behalf.

Both the IAU and Dartmouth College provided financial support for this meeting. In this respect, we wish to acknowledge these organizations and in particular Associate Dean of Science P. Bruce Pipes of Dartmouth for his endorsement of the conference. As a result, the colloquium was attended by 115 registered participants from 17 nations and it was possible to give 18 persons partial support for either travel or local expenses. There were 44 oral papers given in Dartmouth's Cook Auditorium and 58 poster presentations, available for viewing during the week in Alumni Hall and discussed during the oral sessions. We are grateful for the following individuals who conducted valuable and insightful reviews of the posters: F. Wesemael (Canada), H. M. Van Horn (U. S. A.), K.-H. Böhm (U. S. A.) and B. Warner (South Africa).

The accompanying volume contains the numerous new and original contributions presented at IAU Colloquium No. 114. We are thankful to the firm of Springer-Verlag for undertaking to publish them. The amount of material exceeded our original expectations and consequently there were problems with keeping the book at a manageable size. As a result, we have not published the abstracts of some of the longer papers and have omitted the often lively discussions following the presentations also in the interest of conciseness. Nevertheless, it is hoped that none of the main parts of the material have become lost and that this volume will remain a reminder of a pleasant meeting and a tribute to all those people who have contributed to the field of white dwarfs.

Gary Wegner
Dartmouth College
December 5, 1988