

PREFACE

The idea of this Colloquium came during the XVIIth General Assembly of the I.A.U. at Montreal. The meeting was organized under the auspices of I.A.U. Commission 5 (Documentation and Astronomical Data). The Scientific Organizing Committee consisted of C. Jaschek (chairperson), O. Dluzhnevskaya, B. Hauck (vice chairperson), W. Heintz, P. Lantos, Th. Lederle, J. Mead, G. Ruben, Y. Terashita, G. Wilkins.

The members of this Committee are to be thanked for their devotion to the organization of what turned out to be a very successful meeting. The program was organized so as to cover most of the aspects concerning work with machine readable data. In a certain sense it is the development of the subjects of I.A.U. Colloquium 35 "Compilation, critical evaluation and distribution of stellar data" held at Strasbourg in 1976. The meeting was opened by welcoming addresses delivered by Dr. A. Florsch, Director of the Strasbourg Observatory, Prof. H. Curien, President of the European Science Foundation and Prof. W. Heintz, President of I.A.U. Commission 5. The sessions were devoted to the following subjects : Existing data centers, Data networks, New hardware, Recent software developments, Bibliographical services, Copyright, Editorial policies and nomenclature, Data in astronomy and Data in space astronomy. The different sessions were chaired by G.A. Wilkins, J. Mead, S. Lavrov, W. Heintz, P. Lantos, M. McCarthy, J. Delhaye and G. Westerhout.

On July 9, Dr. A. Florsch spoke on the occasion of the Centenary of the Strasbourg Observatory and described briefly the various activities of the institution over the past century.

The meeting closed with a general discussion and the final recommendations by Prof. B. Hauck.

The local organization was handled very efficiently by the Local Organizing Committee composed of A. Florsch (chairperson), Ch. Bruneau, D. Egret, A. Fresneau, C. Jaschek and F. Ochsenein. The work of the Committee was greatly helped by the collaboration of a number of volunteers from the Strasbourg Observatory.

The Colloquium was attended by ninety scientists from fifteen countries.

Financial support was received from the International Astronomi-

cal Union, the Institut National d'Astronomie et Géophysique, the Ministère des Universités, the Observatoire de Strasbourg and the Municipalité de Strasbourg.

The meeting took place at the Institute Le Bel of the Louis Pasteur University of Strasbourg. We thank all these institutions for their support.

C. JASCHEK

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W. HEINTZ