

## INTRODUCTION

The idea of this Symposium was born during a meeting of the members of Commission No. 44 on 'Astronomical Observations from Outside the Terrestrial Atmosphere' of the IAU at the General Assembly in Prague.

The introduction of new techniques has played again and again a decisive role in astronomy. Although a number of important results have been obtained in the meantime with the help of balloons, sounding rockets and satellites and although the first astronomical satellites for solar and stellar research have orbited the earth for a number of years, we are still at the beginning of space astronomy.

I still very often remember what Henry Russell wrote to Leo Goldberg when he saw in 1947 Tousey's first solar spectrum of the far ultraviolet "My first look at one gave me a sense that I was seeing something that no astronomer could expect to see unless he was good and went to heaven!"

About twenty-five years have passed since rockets were used for the first time for astronomical purposes and it seems that at the beginning of the eighties the astronomers might be really in space using space stations and going up and down to them. At such a stage it might be useful not only to exchange the scientific results so far obtained but to compare the methods in order to improve them or to embark on new regions in the spectrum.

When we started with the first thoughts and preparations for this Symposium, it was Günther Boldt who was one of the most enthusiastic supporters for this Symposium. He took over the task of the organization for this meeting. It was a great shock for us when an illness stopped his work Christmas 1969, and only a few weeks later his sudden death put an end to all his activities. He had initiated and filled with ideas the work on UV-spectroscopy here at Garching. He had hoped to present his new results at this Symposium.

Many people besides the members of the Organizing Committee (Prof. J. E. Blamont, Prof. L. Goldberg, Prof. C. de Jager, Prof. R. Lüst, Prof. V. K. Prokof'ev, Prof. F. G. Smith, Dr R. Tousey and Dr Wilson) have helped to make this Symposium a success; in particular F. Labuhn should be mentioned who was responsible for the arrangements after the death of Günther Boldt. We are also grateful to the 'Ministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft' of the German Federal Republic which provided financial assistance and for the IAU Executive Committee for funds so that several young astronomers were able to attend the conference.

R. LÜST