

PREFACE

'Galactic Radio Astronomy' was chosen as the subject of this Symposium, which was held in conjunction with the IAU General Assembly that took place in Sydney in August 1973, largely because it is a very suitable Southern Hemisphere topic. This results in part from the advantages of a southern location in studying the Galaxy and in part from the long association of Australia with radio astronomy.

Following the General Assembly, the Symposium was held at the Surfair International Hotel in Maroochydore, Queensland, from 3 to 7 September, 1973. The conference participants were effectively isolated from the rest of the world during the Symposium, and the excellent spring weather and geographical situation led to the development of an unusually good rapport.

The Symposium was sponsored by Commissions 40, 33, and 34. The Organizing Committee was composed of A. H. Barrett (chairman), J. E. Baldwin, D. S. Heeschen, F. J. Kerr, J. Lequeux, S. W. McCuskey, P. G. Mezger, B. Y. Mills, Yu. N. Parijskij, B. J. Robinson, H. van der Laan, and H. F. Weaver. The Local Committee, consisting of B. J. Robinson, N. G. Seddon, and P. J. Kelly, looked after the arrangements in very fine style. The Symposium was supported financially by the IAU, the Australian Academy of Science, the CSIRO Division of Radiophysics, Union Carbide Australia Limited, and the Science Foundation for Physics within the University of Sydney.

Seventy-three papers were presented, with discussion periods following nearly every one. Each session contained one, and in some cases several, review papers. We have changed the order of presentation of the sessions in the volume from that of the Symposium itself, to bring related sessions more closely together. The session on supernova remnants was actually the last one held. The Symposium program arrangement was subject to some constraints which do not apply to the printed version.

For several papers where abstracts only were submitted, we used the tape recordings and our own notes to prepare a summary of the author's remarks. For review papers this was extended over several pages. For other papers only one page was written, but we felt this useful, especially to provide some basis for the discussion. Sometimes we summarized already published papers. All papers prepared by us from the tapes are so indicated.

As part of the philosophy governing the organization of the Symposium, the Organizing Committee encouraged wide discussion based on the review papers and the small number of short contributed papers. Therefore we have attempted to include almost all of the discussion, using two procedures. First we took the discussion slips that were filled out by the commentator and the speaker on the spot. These were also checked by the original authors after typing. Second, we used transcriptions from the

tape recordings and our notes to summarize any significant parts of the discussion that had not been written down. Essentially every relevant comment appears in the printed discussion.

We were greatly assisted in the preparation of the manuscript by Robin Farber, Ann Frantz and Nancy Rosander. The discussion was included only by dint of the exertions of R. A. Batchelor, N. Fourikis, J. W. Brooks, and J. N. Clarke, who organized the discussion slips at the sessions, and Joyce McIntosh and Jenny Stainer, who typed many of them on the spot. The technical expertise of D. C. Dunn in recording the papers and discussion was indispensable in making this volume complete. The participants* in the Advanced Galactic Research Seminar at the University of Maryland assisted the Editors by critically reading the manuscripts.

A note on the jansky. We have used the jansky (Jy) for the unit of flux density; $1 \text{ Jy} = 10^{-26} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1}$. This unit was adopted by the IAU at the General Assembly in Sydney, and it has been accepted by the editors of several major journals.

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