

CLOSING REMARKS - Professor P.A. Wayman (General Secretary, IAU). Dunsink Observatory, County Dublin, Eire.

It is my pleasant task to offer the thanks of the International Astronomical Union to the Royal Astronomical Society and to its President, Professor Arnold Wolfendale, for the convening of this IAU Colloquium No. 60 on the subject of Uranus and the Outer Solar System. It is particularly noteworthy that the opportunity was taken by the Council of the Society to celebrate the second centenary of the discovery of Uranus and to combine this occasion with a colloquium on a subject of special modern interest, with very recent important developments.

By this combination it has been the rare privilege for Fellows of the Society, attending the Spring meeting of 1981, perhaps with a special interest in the history of astronomy and in the work of Herschel, to be present at an international meeting where the speakers on a topic of wide attraction, namely exploration of the solar system, are drawn from among those who have the highest achievements in this fast-developing field. We expect, as indeed is the case, that about half the contributions originate from the United States. Nevertheless the contributors come from eight countries in all and thirteen countries are represented among those attending. Therefore the Colloquium has admirably met the normal IAU criteria as being representative of international activity, as well as being a Society meeting held in what is probably the most charming and attractive of the smaller English provincial cities.

In providing a successful venue, thanks are due to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bath for the excellent facilities of the meeting and of the residences, and to Col. John Green for supervision of these facilities. The welcome by Dr. David Parkin and his team of helpers was greatly appreciated as was the preparation of the premises of 19 New King Street as the Herschel Museum

by the Herschel Society, by the National Maritime Museum and by Mr & Mrs Hilliard. For the whole local programme Professor Davies and his Local Organising Committee did an excellent job, the musical occasions being especially attractive.

For the excellent scientific programme of the Colloquium we are indebted to Dr. Garry Hunt, Chairman of the Scientific Organising Committee, and his committee members for an interesting series of reviews and other papers. The life and work of William Herschel, in the opening session, was of considerable interest, not least because his contribution to astronomy epitomises in several ways the successful performance of individual astronomers in modern times. Herschel saw clearly the need for a type of telescope that was of superior workmanship and he made it his business to supply that need. He came to astronomy from another profession late in life; although he was not trained as a professional astronomer he was a professional in every general sense of the word, bringing to his work in astronomy a capacity for assiduous devotion to the task of observation that has hardly otherwise been matched. With the whole-hearted devotion of at least one assistant, his sister Caroline, he followed up his skill at telescope construction with observing zeal of an extraordinary intensity until late in life and he thus stands as a founder of a tradition of individual initiative and enterprise in modern observational astronomy that befits him well to be remembered as the first President of the Society which has been our host at this Colloquium.

To the scientific programme I have brought no special knowledge, but I must express my personal thanks to those who took care in providing reviews of a subject that has advanced very rapidly with the success of the Voyager missions. This has been a considerable contribution to a wider appreciation of the new information available and I therefore am able to mark the conclusion of the Colloquium with the expression of thanks to all who have participated scientifically to make this a successful and memorable meeting.