

FOREWORD

It was particularly appropriate that the IAU Symposium N° 100 be held in Besançon in 1982 (August 9-13), since this coincided with the 100th anniversary of the Observatoire de Besançon. The meeting was held on the campus of the Université de Franche-Comté and was sponsored by IAU commission 28 and co-sponsored by commissions 33 and 40. It was organized under the auspices of the Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and the Institut National d'Astronomie et de Géophysique. It was attended by 166 scientists from 22 countries.

The subject of the symposium was internal kinematics and dynamics of galaxies and it was aimed to confront recent theoretical developments in this field with the wealth of new observational material obtained during the last few years. Barred galaxies and spiral structure were two major topics, though unfortunately at the last minute the main proponent of one of the spiral formation theories was unable to attend. The program included 23 reviews, 53 contributions and 39 poster papers, and there was ample time for discussion.

This book contains the proceedings of the symposium and was produced from camera-ready manuscripts prepared by the authors. I believe that in rapidly evolving fields a fast publication of meeting proceedings is a must and this has greatly influenced my editorial policy. Reviews are in the order presented at the meeting, but contributions have been rearranged and posters interlaced, as seemed appropriate. Several contributions were shortened or reworded. When somebody gave both a presentation and a poster on the same or similar subjects the manuscripts were merged into one longer unit. Discussion was included only after the reviews. It was edited partly from the discussion sheets filled by participants and partly from tape recordings.

It is a pleasure to thank all members of the scientific and local organizing committees, and in particular their chairmen P.O. Lindblad and M. Crézé, for their contributions to the success of the symposium. Generous grants from the Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and the Institut National d'Astronomie et de Géophysique are gratefully acknowledged. Danielle Chabod very efficiently assisted the local organizing committee in all stages of preparation and running of the symposium. Annika Johansson assisted the scientific organizing committee. J. Mulhauser, E. Rundo, D. Chabod and C. Cacho helped with the preparation of the indexes and the final typing. Last but not least, thanks are due to

A. Bosma for his interest and continual help-from the preparation of the meeting to the editing of this book.

Besançon, October 1982

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