

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The origin of IAU Symposium No. 111 was a conversation with L. W. Fredrick during an IAU Colloquium in Flagstaff, Arizona. Several speakers at that meeting had talked independently of their difficulties in calibration, and it seemed to us that a meeting organized to discuss such matters would bring together workers from many diverse fields to discuss problems fundamental to all our astronomical knowledge. The idea was ambitious and received much support, but many people also expressed reservations. The IAU Executive was sympathetic, but urged us to focus our ideas more clearly and to narrow the scope of the proposed meeting. Since most support for the original proposal came from stellar astronomers, the limitation to the "Calibration of Fundamental Stellar Quantities" came naturally. Commission 29 sponsored the new proposal and Commissions 5, 24, 25, 26, 30, 35, 37, 42 and 45 were co-sponsors. It is now clear that we could not have done justice to the original theme in one meeting: we hope others will attempt similar appraisals in other fields of astronomy.

An early decision of the Scientific Organizing Committee was to allow the full presentation of only the invited papers; contributed papers were all to be poster papers. This is reflected in the arrangement of the proceedings, in which the contributed papers are presented in somewhat abbreviated form, prominence being given to the invited review papers. In this way, we hoped to encourage full discussion of the invited papers. We also hoped to produce a volume that would serve, to some extent, as a handbook in its field. Invited speakers were asked to bear this aim in mind. It was fascinating, at the meeting, to see how each of them approached their task. How successful we have been in producing a handbook is for readers to judge.

The new proposal was submitted to the IAU Executive at about the time of Prof. Popper's seventieth birthday. We wished to recognize his many contributions to our knowledge of such fundamental stellar quantities as mass, radius and luminosity, and we are happy that he accepted our dedication and came to take an active part in the Symposium.

I would like to extend my thanks to all members of the Scientific and Local Organizing Committees for making all the necessary arrangements for the meeting. We are, of course, grateful to the IAU for its sponsorship and financial support of the Symposium. We also acknowledge with thanks the generosity of the following co-sponsors: Dipartimento di Fisica of the Università di Milano, the Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione, the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, the Assessorato alla Cultura e Informazione of the Regione Lombardia, the Centro di Cultura Scientifica "A. Volta" of Como, and the Banca Popolare di Milano. Particular thanks, amongst these, are due to the Director of the Dipartimento di Fisica, Prof. M. Pignanelli, the

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, and the Assessorato alla Cultura e Informazione. Finally, we would like to thank Dr. M. Bossi of the Osservatorio Astronomico di Merate for his help to the LOC during the Symposium, and the staff of the Villa Olmo.

A. H. Batten