

PREFACE

The IAU Symposium No. 61, *New Problems in Astrometry*, was held in Perth, Western Australia, from 13th to 17th August 1973, under the sponsorship of Commission 8 (Positional Astronomy), 24 (Photographic Astrometry), 33 (Structure and Dynamics of the Galactic System) and 40 (Radio Astronomy). Considerable financial support was given by the Government of Western Australia. The scientific organising committee included Prof. Walter Fricke (Chairman), Prof. S. Vasilevskis (Vice-Chairman), Dr W. Gliese and Mr C. A. Murray (Secretaries), Dr B. G. Clark, Mr B. Elsmore, Prof. S. W. McCuskey, Dr J. L. Schombert, Prof. R. H. Stoy, Dr K. Aa. Strand, Dr G. van Herk, Mr H. W. Wood and Prof. M. S. Zverev. The local organising committee included Mr B. J. Harris (Chairman), Mr P. V. Birch, Mr M. P. Candy, Mr D. N. Harwood, Dr I. Nikoloff and Dr S. E. Williams. The duties of chairmen of the sessions were performed by: B. L. Klock, W. Fricke, H. W. Wood, C. A. Anguita, C. M. Wade, B. Elsmore, B. J. Harris, J. Kovalevsky, S. Vasilevskis, G. van Herk, K. Aa. Strand and C. A. Murray.

This volume contains the texts or abstracts of papers presented at the Symposium. These reflect not only the continuing interest in the classical methods of optical astrometry, but also the exciting developments already achieved or to be expected within the next few years through the new techniques of radio interferometry, the use of large optical telescopes and space astrometry. This was in fact the first symposium in which both optical and radio astrometrists participated. Collaboration between radio and optical observers, and the exploitation of these new techniques, were urged in three general Resolutions which were adopted at the end of the Symposium.

Unfortunately several of those invited, including some members of the scientific organising committee, were prevented from attending the Symposium; nevertheless papers or abstracts which they submitted have been included in this volume. Among these are several papers from our Russian colleagues, none of whom was able to be present.

A special debt of gratitude is owed by all the participants to Mr Harris and his colleagues for the efficient organisation of the Symposium, and, as Secretaries, we are particularly grateful for the assistance given to us in recording the discussions which appear in this volume. We also wish to acknowledge with thanks the valuable help given by Mrs M. Laker in the preparation of the manuscripts for publication.

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