

DIVISION IX: OPTICAL AND INFRARED TECHNIQUES *(TECHNIQUES OPTIQUES ET INFRAROUGES)*

PRESIDENT: C. Sterken

BOARD: John B. Hearnshaw, John D. Landstreet, G. Lelièvre, Ian S. McLean & Colin D. Scarfe

Commission IX: Instruments

Commission 25: Stellar Photometry and Polarimetry

Commission 30: Radial Velocities

Division IX provides a forum for astronomers engaged in the innovation, development, and calibration of optical instrumentation and observational procedures, including data processing. The Reports of Commissions 9, 25 and 30 highlight the research topics covered from 1996 to 1999. Two Working Groups are associated with Comm. 9, viz. the Working Group on Sky Surveys, and the Working Group on Detectors; Commission 25 has one Working Group dealing with Infrared Astronomy. For a detailed account of progress over the last triennium, we refer to the following Reports of Commissions and Working Groups.

The last couple of years have seen a tremendous deployment of new large-scale facilities including arrays of 8-m class telescopes at several sites (For a review, see the report of Commission 9, see also the links at the Division's homepage <http://www.iau.org/div9.html>). Such telescopes, in addition, are supported by one or more smaller telescopes with large detectors for survey or reconnaissance support. These new facilities open possibilities for complete spectral coverage at high resolution in space and time at a level that was undreamed of even less than a decade ago. Evidently, the data-collecting rate has grown to an extent that is barely manageable, even considering the fast progress and affordability of data-archiving technical facilities, not to speak of the ever growing complexity of observatory management and telescope scheduling.

One of the major challenges for the Division is to cope with the task of keeping astronomers well-informed on the broadest aspects of this fast evolution. As such, the Division is working towards a goal of creating additional Working Groups or Commissions that will deal with topics such as Telescope Technology, Adaptive Optics, Interferometry, Detectors, Data Reduction, Data Archiving, Calibration and Observatory Site Management.

C. Sterken
President of the Commission

References

- Report of IAU Comm. 9 (I. McLean, these Transactions)
- Report of IAU Comm. 25 (C. Sterken, these Transactions)
- Report of IAU Comm. 30 (J. Hearnshaw, these Transactions)