

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

William G. Shepherd
University of Minnesota

It is a special privilege to welcome the participants at this colloquium on Proper Motions sponsored by the International Astronomical Union. The University of Minnesota is honored that you have come together here for scientific discussions on the occasion of the unveiling of the new automated-computerized plate scanner which you will see this morning. I have said it was a special privilege for me to join with you and indeed it is. First it is a pleasure to join in a tribute to Professor Luyten whom I have known and respected since my undergraduate days. He was for thirty-six years Mr. Astronomy at the University of Minnesota and I would only embarrass him by listing his honors during that period. As a graduate student in the Physics Department I first became aware of his activities in investigating the proper motion of stars and marveled at the patience and perseverance necessary in obtaining and analyzing the photographic plates made over a span of years which provided the background data for his studies. One could hardly describe our situation here in Minnesota as the ideal center for astronomy and it is a tribute to Professor Luyten that he kept his field alive and vital as a part of the University's offerings. Thousands of our students learned about astronomy from Professor Luyten. When Professor Luyten retired he provided me with an accounting for his thirty-six years. Being a good astronomer who keeps accurate records, he was able to report on the number of students he had had in his classes, the number of student credit hours taught, the income received by the University and the total of his salary for the period. He pointed out that the University had made a profit on his activities and indeed we did in many ways. We have a custom at the University of asking the most distinguished retiring faculty to speak at our annual Cap and Gown Day exercises. It will not surprise you that Professor Luyten was so honored in the year of his retirement.

A second reason that it is a pleasure for me to participate in opening these ceremonies is that I am impressed by the machine which brings to bear some of the most modern of scientific and technological developments in serving one of the oldest branches of science. I have had the opportunity for a preview of the equipment which you will be seeing later. The application of modern laser optical techniques and computer in the rapid handling of the data which Professor Luyten and his students dealt with so laboriously in the past provides a dramatic example of our new capability to move forward in science and technology.

Another source of pleasure to me is that some of my own former students have been major contributors to the development of the machine. I need not tell most of you of the sense of fulfillment a teacher derives from the successful efforts of his students.

Lastly it pleases me that the automated-computerized plate scanner has been the result of the joint efforts of the University and the Control Data Corporation. Control Data has been a good friend to the University interested and cooperative in our efforts to provide modern high speed computational capability to bear on our research and instructional activities. The Company has also been a concerned spokesman in urging public support for the University. Ours has been an exemplary town and gown relationship and I am happy to have the opportunity to acknowledge it on this occasion.

We join in welcoming you this morning and in expressing the wish that your conference will be a fruitful one.

John Baird
Control Data Corporation

It is a very sincere pleasure for me to welcome you as members of the International Astronomical Union to Control Data Corporation. It has been the good fortune of Control Data Corporation to be able to build a machine for measuring stellar motions. This program, which has been developed for the University of Minnesota, has led to the development of a machine for the University of Minnesota, under a contract from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It has been a very exciting and, at times, a rather frustrating program, and we have been particularly appreciative of the understanding shown by the University and by NASA in connection with the problems that we have had in this program. We have been very pleased that we have been able to carry it through such that at the present time we have a machine which is truly operating. As always in connection with a research program we wish we had another month or two months to work on the machine before we presented it to you. Yet the machine is working; you will be seeing the results of the machine. I have mentioned that there is additional work to be done; we hope that we can cooperate with the University and with NASA in carrying this work forward. In my estimation this area of measurement of stellar motions, of unraveling the secrets of the universe, is perhaps one of the most exciting fields of science. Now while you are here at Control Data we would be delighted to be able to show you some of our computing facilities, some of the computers that we manufacture, some of our manufacturing facilities, if you would like to see them. If you would like to see any of our facilities while you are here, I would suggest that you let Ken Coon know, and we will make arrangements so that you have a chance to see what you would like to see. If there are any details that we can handle for you while you are here please let us know. We are delighted, at Control Data, to be able to furnish facilities for this meeting, and again, it is my very sincere pleasure to welcome you on behalf of Control Data Corporation and the University of Minnesota to Minneapolis for the Colloquium. I certainly hope that it will be, and I am sure it will be, a very successful meeting.