

DIVISION VII: GALACTIC SYSTEM *(SYSTEME GALACTIQUE)*

PRESIDENT: G. Meylan

BOARD: G. Da Costa, K. Freeman, A. Sarajedini, D. Spergel, P. Whitelock

Commission 33: Structure and Kinematics of the Galactic System

Commission 37: Star Clusters and Associations

1. Introduction

Division VII held a brief business session at 9:00 am on Monday, July 21, 2003, followed by a scientific session for the remainder of the morning.

Both business and scientific sessions of the Division were jointly organized by its two IAU Commissions in order to have simultaneously all members of the Division attending the same sessions.

2. Business Meeting

The president described the activities of the board of the Division. The primary activity was to sponsor IAU Symposia and Colloquia. Division VII was involved in the organization of 5 of the 6 Symposia and in numerous Joint Discussions of this General Assembly, either as sponsor or supporter.

Division VII was involved in some of the Symposia and Colloquia proposed for 2004, which were to be considered by the incoming EC at this General Assembly. These meetings are (with the role of Division VII in bracket):

- IAU Symposium No. 222, The Interplay Among Black Holes, Stars and ISM in Galactic Nuclei, March 1-5, 2004, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (supporter);
- IAU Symposium No. 224, The A-Star Puzzle July 8-13, 2004, Poprad, Slovakia (supporter);
- IAU Colloquium No. 194, Compact Binaries in the Galaxy and Beyond, November 17-22, 2003, La Paz, Mexico (supporter).

3. The role of Division in the IAU

The president reminded that the role of Division in the IAU may be changing. Division Presidents may have a bigger role in the management of the IAU in the coming years. This was one of the reasons to have these two joint business and scientific sessions of the Division, instead of the usual separated ones.

4. New Division Board

The meeting agreed to follow the practice at the previous General Assembly in appointing the President, Vice President and Past President of the two constituent Commissions (33 and 37) as the members of the Board of Division VII. The new Board is:

- President: P. Whitelock (President of Commission 33)
- Vice President: A. Sarajedini (President of Commission 37)
- O. Gerhard (Vice President of Commission 33)
- R. Spurzeni (Vice President of Commission 37)
- D. Spergel (Past President of Commission 33)
- G. Meylan (Past President of Commission 37)

5. Scientific Session: THE FORMATION OF THE GALACTIC HALO

Division VII Scientific Session was jointly organized by its two IAU Commissions, namely Commission 33: Structure and Dynamics of the Galactic System, and Commission 37: Star Clusters and Associations. This scientific session was entirely devoted to the subject of **THE FORMATION OF THE GALACTIC HALO**, a subject potentially of interest to all members of the Division.

This session was made of the following four invited reviews:

- **THE STELLAR HALO** by Rosie Wyse (USA)
- **THE GASEOUS HALO** by Brad Gibson (Australia)
- **DYNAMICS OF SUBSTRUCTURES** by Amina Helmi (The Netherlands)
- **MASS PROFILE OF THE HALO** by Ortwin Gerhard (Switzerland)

Each of these reviews were followed by an interesting set of questions, and the whole session ended by a lively general discussion. The fact that the room was completely full, with numerous people standing in the back, indicated the a clear interest in this session which was a pleasant success.

Georges Meylan
President of the Division