

**Report on IAU Symposium 161
to IAU General Secretary
IAU Secretariat**

'Wide-field Imaging in Astronomy'

August 23-27, 1993

Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam, Brandenburg, Germany

IAU Symposium 161 was sponsored by IAU Commissions 5, 9, 24, 27, 28 and 33. Additional sponsorship was provided by Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur des Landes Brandenburg, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam, International Science Foundation, CONVEX Computer GmbH, ORWO Filmfabrik Wolfen AG, and VIP Verkehrsbetrieb Potsdam.

The Meeting was held at the Residence Hotel in Potsdam, Land of Brandenburg, Germany. The Scientific Organising Committee was chaired by R.M. West, and the Local Organising Committee by H. Lorenz. The Meeting attracted about 200 participants from 29 countries and was opened by the Minister for Science, Research and Culture of the Land of Brandenburg, Mr. H. Enderlein, who held the official patronage. A total of 68 reviews and contributed papers were presented and approximately 120 poster papers were displayed during the entire Meeting.

This Meeting, which was organised by the IAU Working Group on Wide-field Imaging (established in 1991 under Commission 9) was the first of its kind ever held and successfully brought together the many diverse areas of technology and science within current wide-field research. The sessions were organised in a logical way, beginning with comprehensive overviews of work in the optical, infrared and X-ray regions, followed by thorough discussions of wide-field detector techniques (photography and CCD mosaics), cataloguing, classification, calibration, archiving and retrieval of the very large data sets that result. During the second half of the meeting, scientific results from solar system surveys, investigations of the structure of the Galaxy, the Magellanic Clouds, local group dwarf galaxies, low surface brightness galaxies and nearby galaxies were presented. Finally, reviews were given of the present status of the mapping of large-scale structure in the Universe, including red-shift surveys, clustering of galaxies and the properties and clustering of objects at very large red-shifts. The enormous amount and great width of information presented was most ably summarized by V. Trimble.

The Symposium participants passed two resolutions about:

- 1) photographic plate supplies to astronomers, now in danger because of the recent decision by Kodak to discontinue the production of certain emulsions; and
- 2) the future of Sonneberg Observatory, until now very active in wide-field work, but now in danger of being closed. The text of these resolutions will be found on pages 10 and 11 of this Newsletter.

The social programme organised by the LOC included a beautiful boat trip on the lakes and rivers around Potsdam, a delightful barbecue party in the grounds of the Babelsberg Observatory, and an exciting, richly illustrated, public talk by D. Malin.

The proceedings will be edited by members of the SOC (Chief Editor H.T. MacGillivray) and published by Kluwer Academic Publishers.

R.M. WEST

European Southern Observatory, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2, W-8046 Garching, Germany.