

PREFACE

Every 5 years since 1967 a meeting has been held to discuss the subject of planetary nebulae and their central stars. Previous meetings have been held in Tatranská Lomnica (Czechoslovakia); Liege (Belgium); Ithaca, New York (U. S. A.); and London (Great Britain). IAU Symposium 131 was sponsored by IAU Commission 34, on Interstellar Matter and co-sponsored by IAU Commissions 35 and 36 on Stellar Constitution and Theory of Stellar Atmospheres.

The symposium was held at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City, October 5-9, 1987. It took place in one of the old buildings of the University of Mexico in the downtown area. The inner patio of the building provided very pleasant surroundings for the poster sessions and for extensive discussions among the participants. The meeting was attended by 160 scientists from 22 countries. The Scientific Organizing Committee, under the chairmanship of J.B. Kaler, prepared a comprehensive scientific program based on a set of invited presentations. All contributed papers were presented in poster form.

The Scientific Organizing Committee would like to thank the staff of the University of Illinois Department of Astronomy: Dr. Ron Allen for granting financial support; Carol Stickrod, Louise Browning, Deana Griffin and Sandie Osterbur for their help with the organization. IAU provided economic assistance to a group of young astronomers.

The Local Organizing Committee acknowledges the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México for the general support provided for the meeting, mainly through the following departments: Instituto de Astronomía, Coordinación de la Investigación Científica, and Rectoría. Many other branches of the University, collaborated for the successful development of the meeting. Additional financial assistance provided by the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología is gratefully acknowledged.

The present proceedings include the 39 invited papers and 138 abstracts of contributed papers. The invited papers were delivered in their final form by the authors and are their sole responsibility. Many of the abstracts were re-typed to follow the required format. To facilitate the use of the material we include author index, object index and subject index. The organization of these proceedings follows very closely the order of presentations of the meeting. The editor is grateful to Elizabeth Themsel for typing the abstracts.

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