

PREFACE

IAU Symposium 96 on "Infrared Astronomy" was held at the Kona Lagoon Hotel, Hawaii, during 23-27 June 1980. The meeting, which was attended by 203 astronomers from 16 countries, was timed to coincide with the emergence of Mauna Kea Observatory as a major infrared facility, with four large telescopes available to the international community for infrared observations. The meeting was generously supported organizationally and financially by the Office of Space Sciences of NASA, by the Science Research Council of the United Kingdom, by the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Corporation and by the Institute for Astronomy of the University of Hawaii. It was co-sponsored by IAU Commissions 16, 28 and 34.

The Scientific Organizing Committee consisted of D. P. Cruikshank and C. G. Wynn-Williams (co-chairmen), M. Combes, G. G. Fazio, U. Fink, R. D. Gehrz, A. R. Hyland, R. A. McLaren, A. F. M. Moorwood, G. Neugebauer, G. H. Rieke, J. Ring, and R. van Duinen. The Local Organizing Committee consisted of B. Campbell, A. J. Longmore, and C. M. Telesco.

The topics covered in the conference were the infrared aspects of planetary astronomy, of interstellar clouds and star-forming regions, of Galactic structure, and of galaxies. Papers on normal and evolved stars and on instrumentation were excluded from the verbal sessions of the conference, although a few posters were accepted on these topics.

During the course of the conference, 21 review papers and 143 contributed papers were presented. Of the contributed papers, 78 were presented verbally, and 65 in the form of posters. Two special sessions were held during the conference: M. W. Werner organized a discussion on infrared astronomy from space, and M. Harwit chaired a session on the future of airborne astronomy. This volume contains all of the review papers, plus a record of the discussions which followed the reviews. A list of the contributed papers is included at the end of the volume. The decision to exclude the latter was made primarily to keep the size and the purchase price of this volume within reasonable limits.

The volume was prepared from camera-ready typescripts prepared, in most cases, by the authors. In Honolulu we checked the text and all readily-accessible references for errors, and made the appropriate corrections in the typescripts. The discussions, which have in some cases been reworded and compressed for clarity, were drafted from a combination of the questionnaire forms completed by those who made comments and a tape recording of the proceedings. The draft discussions were then checked by the speakers. We would like to express our appreciation to Mary Missbach and JoAnn Yuen for their help in completing the typing of the volume.

In the final review paper in this volume Malcolm Longair expresses the opinion that IAU Symposium 96 will surely be the last major conference entitled, "Infrared Astronomy." If this proves to be correct, we commend to our readers a book that will perhaps be the last one entitled, "Infrared Astronomy."

C. G. Wynn-Williams
Dale P. Cruikshank

August 1980
Honolulu, Hawaii.