PREFACE

The IAU Symposium No. 149 "THE STELLAR POPULATIONS OF GALAXIES" was held near Angra dos Reis, Brazil, from August 5 to 9, 1991, and was attended by 211 registered participants from 26 countries.

The meeting was sponsored by the following IAU Commissions: Commission 28 (Galaxies), Commission 29 (Stellar Spectra), Commission 33 (Structure and Dynamics of the Galactic System), Commission 35 (Stellar Constitution), and Commission 37 (Star Clusters and Associacions).

Besides the IAU support, additional financial support was provided by the following institutions: Projeto Banco Interamericano de Desenvolvimento/Universidade de São Paulo (BID/USP), Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP), Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul (FAPERGS), Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq), Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos (FINEP); Instituto Astronômico e Geofísico da Universidade de São Paulo (IAG-USP), and Observatório Nacional (ON/CNPq). The contribution of these institutions provided the overall support to the Symposium, and thanks to it partial or full support to 98 participants was provided.

It was a broad Symposium, covering the whole subject of stellar populations from the solar neighborhood to the most distant radiogalaxies, and the meeting was correspondingly structured in three phases. The first phase focussed on our own Galaxy, with main reviews devoted to the stellar populations in the Galactic Bulge, Halo, Disk and Spiral Arms, then touching upon their age, composition, and kinematics. A classical approach to stellar populations, and yet one which is still plenty of surprise and discoveries.

The second phase of the meeting was devoted to nearby galaxies that observations are able to resolve into individual stars, such as the Magellanic Clouds, the Dwarf Spheroidals, Andromeda, and the other members of the Local Group. When the Symposium was first planned the intent was to devote ample time to the results from the Hubble Space Telescope, which would have enormously increased the number of *resolved* galaxies. Unfortunately, for the well known reasons little relevant HST data became available.

The third and last phase was devoted to distant, non-resolved galaxies, whose stellar populations can only be studied in integrated light. Here the main reviews were devoted to low, intermediate, and high-redshift galaxies, as well as to the ongoing search for primeval galaxies. Through the whole Symposium theoretical papers innervated the complex wealth of observational evidences being provided, thus addressing topics such as the dynamics of the stellar populations in the Galaxy, stellar evolution, stellar spectra and model atmospheres as main ingredients in the construction of the population synthesis tools which are necessary to study unresolved galaxies, etc. The question of how galaxies formed, evolved, and acquired their presesent morphology has percurred the whole meeting, leading to much discussion and excitement. To make progress in this direction the Symposium was indeed conceived.

An impressive number of poster papers were also presented, too many for allowing an even cursory discussion of them during the formal sessions of the meeting. But spirited discussions took place before the posters themselves, during one week of splendid isolation, next to the uncontaminated seashore of Angra Dos Reis, the ideal *anchorage* for such a populous symposium.

The Editors

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