

FOREWORD

Could frontiers stop a bird, a river, wind or thought? Could science be divided into small ghettos closed by borders? The science is universal in spirit and without the freedom of scientific activity, the freedom of communication among scientists, the freedom of access to, and dissemination of, scientific information, the science could not bestow its fruits on the whole humanity. This is particularly true of astronomy, since its laws are the same to all and do not depend on politics. To a real astronomer, each observatory all over the world is his home. There, he may immediately find friends, continue his research, discuss his results. His articles are in the observatory's library. So it is natural that astronomers endeavor to improve mutual communications and to create better conditions for friendship and collaboration.

The first Hungarian - Yugoslav Astronomical Conference is a fruitful realization of our desire to create the conditions for development of better collaboration and of traditionally good relations among Yugoslav and Hungarian astronomers, relations started by Milan Nedeljković, the founder of the Astronomical Observatory in Belgrade and Miklos Tege Konkoly, the founder of the Konkoly Observatory in Budapest. The Conference offered an opportunity to exchange ideas, to discuss results and possibilities for closer collaboration on different topics. The present Proceedings of the Conference are not only a collection of presented invited lectures and posters. They are also a kind of "catalogue" of astronomical activities in Yugoslavia and Hungary, and a testimony to our common wish to collaborate and, by uniting our knowledge, to create a "critical mass" for better consideration of results and for faster development of astronomy.

We decided at the Conference to continue such activity and that joint astronomical conferences of our astronomers be organized regularly with a biennial period. The next one, II Yugoslav - Hungarian Astronomical Conference will be organized by the Belgrade Observatory in 1997, the members of the organizing scientific committee being : M. S. Dimitrijević, I. Vince and L. Balasz. I hope that this series of conferences will become an important contribution of astronomers of our two countries to the development of mutual collaboration and friendship.

Milan S. Dimitrijević