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Hipparchos



The Hellenic Astronomical Society Newsletter

Volume 1, issue 3, year 2, February 1997

A letter from the President

The most important developments during the last months refer to the General Meetings of our Society.

(1) The Proceedings of the previous Meeting have now appeared in a nice Volume of 662 pages (December 1996). This Volume, dedicated to the memory of J. Xanthakis, contains 3 invited talks and 121 contributed papers in English, coming mainly from greek astronomers, but also with a substantial number of papers from foreign participants.

The overall appearance of the Volume is excellent, due to the efforts of the editors, and in particular of Dr. J. Seiradakis, who has spend a huge amount of time in organizing the refereeing of the papers and improving their form. The outcome is a very homogeneous publication of high scientific quality.

(2) Now all our efforts are centered on the Organization of the next General Meeting of our Society, jointly with the European Astronomical Society (JENAM 97 = Joint European and National Meeting 1997). This meeting will take place near Thessaloniki, between 2 and 5 July 1997, while Thessaloniki is the Cultural Capital of Europe.

JENAM 97 is expected to have 8 general invited discourses on topics of high current interest from Cosmology to Space Astronomy.

There will be also a round table discussion on "European Astronomy from the Ground and Space 2000-2010", with representatives of the main European centers of astronomical activity (ESO, ESA, EAS, etc.), as well as of the IAU.

We expect also to have parallel sessions on Cosmology and Relativity, High Energy Astrophysics, Galaxies, Stellar and Interstellar Astrophysics, Solar Astronomy, Space and Planetary Physics and Astronomy, Dynamical Astronomy, Observational Astronomy and Instrumentation and History of Astronomy.

These sessions will include both invited and contributed papers. There will be also poster sessions on particular topics.

The Scientific Organizing Committee consists of G. Contopoulos and A. Renzini (co-chairmen) and 19 representatives of various fields of Astronomy and of Affiliated Societies (see announcement below). The SOC will be dealing with the main scientific contents of the Meeting. However each session will have special conveners, that will take care of the details of the session. Finally the Local Organizing Committee, under J. Seiradakis, is already working hard in organizing the practical aspects of the Meeting, finding funds, hotels, transportation, extra-scientific activities, etc.

We have the enthusiastic support of the Affiliated Societies of EAS, and we hope to have a large participation from all over Europe. The fact that the General Assembly of the IAU takes place in Japan, may encourage many people, that would have difficulties to travel so far away, to attend our Meeting.

Looking forward to seeing many colleagues in this Meeting, contributing to its success, I wish to every one happy 1997.

The President of EL.AS.ET.

G. Contopoulos

News

We are proud to announce that our President, Emeritus Professor George Contopoulos, has been elected Full Member of the Academy of Athens on February 12th 1997

The new Council of the Hellenic Astronomical Society

During the elections of 27 June 1996 65 members of the society voted and elected the new president Prof. G Contopoulos, as well as the members of the Council of the Hellenic Astronomical Society:

John Seiradakis (Secretary, U. of Thessaloniki)

Paul Laskarides (Treasurer, U. of Athens)

John Hadjidemetriou (Vice-president, U. of Thessaloniki)

Xenophon Moussas (member, U. of Athens)

Michael Contadakis (member, U. of Thessaloniki,

Nikolaos Spyrou (member, U. of Thessaloniki)

Opinions

Frustration of greek astronomers using internet

and the new publishing policy of *Astronomy and Astrophysics*

Are you aware of the new publishing policy of *Astronomy and Astrophysics*? Do you know that from the beginning of this year the A+A articles will be published in two forms. A short printed version with the core article and the complete article will only be available electronically via the computer network.

I personally love all novelties. I also like to try new things and I am easily prepared to change habits and adopt new practices when I am convinced that it is for the benefit of my job at the University and my life in general. I am one of the first and biggest user of Internet in Greece and every day (network permitting) we transfer large amounts of data for the benefit of our Space Physics group of the University of Athens, for postgraduate students working for their PhDs and undergraduate students working for their BSc theses. The most frustrating thing has always been not to have the computer network working because then we are isolated from the rest of the scientific world, unable not only to access internet but sometimes even to get our e-mail. In fact this situation of computer network blackout and unwanted isolation happens for almost 30 % of the time, especially during the summer and Christmas holidays when we have more time available for our research and we hope to work undisturbed and more concentrated. Very frequently I give up trying to reach one single page in the web of the Ministry of Education in Greece, or the Athens Technical University, which is less than one kilometer from my computer terminal, not to mention Macedonian, Cretan or Thracian nodes, let alone the Cypriot ones.

So the news for the recently introduced publishing policy of *Astronomy and Astrophysics* came as an unwelcome surprise to me and my colleagues because we are afraid (we are sure in fact) that we shall be very frequently in a situation where we will be unable to access the highly appreciated articles of A+A. The limited number of networked PCs, the enormous cost, busy lines and the slow net will not facilitate our lives. There are times when it takes many minutes to get one single page from internet. For this reason in fact we frequently use it early in the morning or during holidays.

For all these reasons I sincerely hope that this decision of the Editorial board will soon be changed to the normal (up to now) publishing practice with the hope that this will help astronomy to continue

flourish in places where internet is not as easily available as it is in some other countries and that our *civilization will not end when someone turns off the switch*, as an anarchist wrote on a wall of the greek silicon valey.

Xenophon Moussas

National University of Athens

Jenam 97

The new council decided to organize jointly the 6th European and 3rd Hellenic Astronomical Society Conference, (J E N A M - 9 7), which will take place in Chalkidiki (2 – 5 July 1997, near Thessaloniki, Greece). The First Announcement follows below.

For more information

Joint European and National Astronomical Meeting for 1997

J E N A M - 9 7

6th European and 3rd Hellenic Astronomical Society Conference

2 – 5 July 1997, Thessaloniki, Greece

E-mail: elaset@astro.auth.gr

<http://www.astro.auth.gr/elaset/jenam97>

Reminder

Please pay your subscription to HELAS for 1997 and previous years.

New Members of EL.AS.ET.

In January 1996, forty five new members were elected during the General Assembly of the Society in accordance with our Constitution. 17 members were elected as Ordinary members, 27 as Junior members and 1 as Associate member. Meanwhile, four Junior members (V. Charmandaris, Th. Grammenos, E. Meletlidou and Th. Taramopoulos) obtained their Ph.D. and were promoted to Ordinary members. In 1996, one of the older members of the Society, Professor K. Macris, died peacefully. The overall membership of the Society has, therefore, grown to 184 (132 Ordinary members, 51 Junior members and 1 Associate member).

The new members are listed below in alphabetical order. Small changes may have occurred since their election:

a) New Ordinary Members

- 1) Anastasiadis Anastasios (University of Thessaloniki)
- 2) Apostolatos Theocharis (Universitaet Jena, Germany)
- 3) Asteriadis Georgios (University of Thessaloniki)

- 4) Athanassoula Evangelia (Observatoire de Marseille, France)
- 5) Belehaki Anna (National Observatory of Athens)
- 6) Georgantopoulos John (University of Leicester, Gr. Britain)
- 7) Hitzanidis Kyriakos (National Technical University of Athens)
- 8) Markellos Vasilios (University of Patras)
- 9) Matsakis Demetrios (U.S. Naval Observatory)
- 10) Mavromihalaki Eleni (University of Athens)
- 11) Michalitsianos Andreas (NASA, Greenbelt, U.S.A.)
- 12) Pavlakis Konstantinos (University of Crete)
- 13) Pavlos Georgios (University of Thrace)
- 14) Papadakis Konstantinos (University of Patras)
- 15) Perdios Efstathios (University of Patras)
- 16) Tsiropoula Georgia (National Observatory of Athens)
- 17) Vilchez Jose-Manuel (Tenerife, Spain)

b) New Junior Members

- 1) Agapitou Vassiliki (Queen Mary and Westerfield College, Gr. Britain)
- 2) Alevizos Aristeides (University of Athens)
- 3) Boudouridis Athanasios (Boston University, U.S.A.)
- 4) Chatzichristou Eleni (Leiden University, The Netherlands)
- 5) Fragouloupoulou Emmanuela (University of Athens)
- 6) Georgoulis Emmanuel (University of Thessaloniki)
- 7) Gizani Nectaria (Jodrell Bank, Gr. Britain)
- 8) Gouliermis Demetrios (University of Athens)
- 9) Graos Ferraios (University of Thessaloniki)
- 10) Kakouris Alexander (University of Athens)
- 11) Kolokotronis Evangelos (Queen Mary and Westerfield College, Gr. Britain)
- 12) Kotta Dionysia (University of Athens)
- 13) Lasaridis Emmanuel (University of Thessaloniki)
- 14) Manimanis Vasilios (University of Athens)
- 15) Manolakou Konstandina (University of Thessaloniki)
- 16) Maragoudaki Fotini (University of Athens)
- 17) Marhavalas Panagiotis (University of Thrace)
- 18) Mitrou Kassios (University of Athens)
- 19) Mylonas Nikolaos (University of Thessaloniki)
- 20) Pantazis Georgios (University of Athens)
- 21) Papathanassiou Hariklia (Penn State University, U.S.A.)
- 22) Polygiannakis John (University of Athens)
- 23) Rafios Xenofon (University of Athens)
- 24) Savopoulos Michael (Imperial College, London, Gr. Britain)
- 25) Stavliotis Haralambos (University of Patras)
- 26) Tsagouri Ioanna (University of Athens)
- 27) Xilouris Emmanuel (University of Crete)

c) Associate Members

- 1) Matsopoulos Nikolaos (National Observatory of Athens)

Book reviews

A very good book suitable both for professional astronomers and PhD students has been published by Springer-Verlag in the series of Lecture Notes in Physics, on **Galactic Dynamics and N-Body Simulations** edited by our colleagues **G. Contopoulos, N. K. Spyrou and L. Vlahos**. The book contains 8 chapters which are the lectures of the Astrophysics School VI, held in Thessaloniki, Macedonia, Greece, in July 1993. The chapters cover all aspects of the subject starting from Stellar Dynamics, Order and Chaos, Fractals, Self Consistent Models of Spiral Galaxies, Elliptical Galaxies, Galaxy Formation, Instabilities in Stellar Dynamics, N-Body Simulations, Gas Simulations.

A very useful and interesting book has been published on **Solar and Astrophysical Magneto-hydrodynamical Flows**, edited by K.C.Tsinganos (Kluwer, Dordrecht), 1996. pp. 742, which contains the lectures of the 1995 NATO Advanced Study Institute held in Heraklion, Crete. The volume, dedicated to Eugene Parker, for his retirement, is a must for the field of astrophysical magnetohydrodynamics. The book describes all aspects of the solar MHD and the solar wind. It contains also a wealth of articles on all astrophysical outflows from all sorts of objects, such as stars, proto-stars, accretion discs, active galactic nuclei and quasars. Observational data (Hubble Space Telescope, Ulysses etc.) are presented together with the appropriate theory including the interstellar Parker instability, multi-fluid MHD and star formation, YSOs and accretion discs.

X M

Observatory of Athens

New Developments in the Astronomical Institute of the NOA

After many years of negative staff growth rate a new era has begun in the Astronomical Institute (A.I.) of the NOA due to (a) the employment of 4 new staff members (and one more soon to come) and (b) the generous financial support by the ministry of development. The new research staff are:

A.Dapergolas (Star clusters, Stellar photometry)

A.Georgakilas (Solar Physics)

I.Georgandopoulos (X-ray Astronomy)

M.Plionis (Observational Cosmology and Large Scale Structure of the Universe)

While the staff is increasing also the research subjects, pursued in the AI, are inevitably expanding as well. This further creates the need to build up the research infrastructure of the Institute. It was a fortunate coincidence that at the same period of the employment of the new staff the ministry of development and in particular the GGET (General Secretariat for Research and development) financed the institute with 115 million drachmae exactly for this purpose. Three main directions were financed by GGET:

A general upgrade of the 1.2m telescope at the Kryonerion station (electronic and driving systems, new CCD detectors).

An upgrade of the solar observatory at Penteli station with a CCD camera, new electronics and computer facilities.

The creation of a modern computer centre, with 4 powerful (64bit CPUs) workstations (and 2 more to come), a network server with 2 CPU's and the necessary software to perform modern astronomical data analysis.

Furthermore, the contacts and scientific collaboration with other European research institutes and

Observatories have increased substantially. There are now strong links with the following institutes:

Royal Observatory of Edinburgh

Queen Mary & Westfield College (London University)

University of Durham

Goddard Space Flight Center/NASA

Observatory of Trieste

International Center for Advanced Studies (SISSA)

University of Padova

INFN (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Perugia section)

Observatory of Meudon

Royal Observatory of Belgium

Bulgarian Rozen Observatory

Rumanian Academy of Science

Special Astronomical Observatory (SAO-Russia)

These contacts and collaborations have brought the AI to take part in large European TMR (Training and Mobility of Researchers) programs. Already one has been approved by the European Union (ISO-ELAIS program, which concerns the analysis of infrared data from the ISO satellite) while another (European Cosmology Network) will be submitted soon.

Beyond our research activity, the Astronomical Institute has the duty of popularizing as well as providing public education on themes related to modern Astronomy. Within this framework we have held for the last 2 years the so called ‘Anoixtes Thires’ program which aimed exactly in providing the above services to the public. The astronomical station of Penteli and in some occasions the station of Krionerion too, was open and still is, to the public on specific dates. During these organized visits we start with an introductory speech, followed by observations, using our telescopes, of some planets (if the weather allows to do so) and projection of videos, produced by the A.I., on modern astronomical topics. This activity has generated strong public interest and as a result the A.I. has been financed by the state with 200 million drx in order to build a planetarium and a conference hall at the Krionerion station.

Finally we would like to report that as part of our educational commitment we have also organized, together with the Academy of Athens, the 1st Astronomy/Astrophysics summer school for high-school students which was held at the Penteli station last September.

M. Plionis

Observational Astronomy to 2000

Introduction

Observational astronomy in Greece reached maturity only after the foundation of the Stefanion and Kryonerion telescopes in the early 1970's. A generation of astronomers were nurtured with the use of the above telescopes and provided robust programmes to the international community, especially in variable stars. Recently, a new 1.3m telescope at the Observatory at Skinakas, Crete has upgraded the potential of observational astronomy with its very high-standards specifications (good seeing, automated operation and CCD camera). Given the recent activity in the development of the subject of astronomy and astrophysics (foundation of the Hellenic Astronomical Society, and regular National meetings every 2 years), we wish to attempt to report on aspects that can improve the observational part of astronomy.

Scientific policy

International developments in astronomy these days are mainly driven by advancements in astronomical technology, for example, the discovery of brown dwarfs with the use of a 1.5m telescope with an adaptive-optics coronagraph. The big questions that this technology tries to address are questions such as the origin of the Universe and the chemical elements, the evolution of stars and galaxies and the existence of Earth-like planets.

Greek Observational programmes should be managed in a such a way as to accommodate international developments and converge to the interests of the international community. For example, the launch of many astronomical satellites in the last decade (for example ROSAT, HST and recently RXTE) has made evident the lack of flexibility of large size telescopes (they follow fixed schedules). Access to small-size telescopes but dedicated for a length of time can follow most efficiently new variable stars (e.g. supernovae, cataclysmic variables and X-ray binaries), an area in which Greek observing groups are particularly strong. Therefore, to summarize the 1m-size Greek telescopes should support University training (observing techniques and related technology) and research which should strengthen international collaborations aiming at long-term campaigns (weeks to months).

Astronomical technology

Based on the previous discussion, many projects require new instrumentation. This instrumentation will support high-quality observations and allow participation in international programmes of cutting-edge. A forum is needed where the needs and interests of the community against instrumentation can be discussed and decided. For example a high-speed (1 sec) CCD or multi-colour photometer would benefit enormously the variable star community in collaboration with international partners. It should be pointed out the lack of a spectroscopic facility from the Greek infrastructure. Such a facility even on a very small telescope would be invaluable even for teaching purposes at the Greek Universities (students taking spectra of a few bright stars and doing some simple analysis like fitting the spectra with model atmospheres). For research purposes, a spectrograph on a 1m-size good-performance telescope will be valuable, especially if it can deliver high-resolution (1Å), and relevant programmes can be identified. Indeed, Skinakas Observatory has already such a project. The foundation of a National Astronomical Workshop is proposed, where technical expertise and knowledge for astronomical instrumentation and telescopes can be found. Such a workshop would support the design and construction of astronomical instruments, such as small spectrographs, photometers, experimental CCDs, optical elements and spares needed for the efficient use of telescopes. Finally, the community has to support the 3 Greek telescopes and improve them according to their capabilities so that international projects can be pursued. The telescopes should also open to the public and schools and serve as centres of astronomical knowledge to the society.

Financial support

The astronomical society should find sources of financial support against observational astronomy. This can be pursued through the National Astronomical Committee, the Hellenic Astronomical Society, or even through the University astronomy groups or Research Institutes. The natural recipient of such an effort is the General Secretariat of Research and Technology, Ministry of Development, which could probably help, in order of priority, through

- (a) financial support against observing trips in Greece or abroad. We should point here that observing and instrumentation experience for an astronomer is a prerequisite for the profession.
- (b) financial support for the installation of a network of computer nodes with uniform hardware and

software which would provide an efficient means of communication and exchange of information (e.g. data) with national and international astronomical centres.

(c) a proposal by the society should be made for the provision of post-doctoral research contracts (2-3 years) which could be rotated between institutes, if only a handful.

(d) financial support for inviting researchers from other Greek or foreign institutes to give at least a colloquium talk and interact with the local astronomers.

(e) Interaction between Institutes.

Access to International facilities

The current status of observational astronomy suggests that the best way to proceed is through cooperation agreements between Greece and other countries or International organizations. There is indeed a cooperation agreement between Greece and the European Space Agency since June 1994. Portugal has a cooperation agreement with ESO which leads to membership by the year 2000. During the intervening 10 years Portugal has the responsibility to reinforce its national astronomical infrastructure while astronomers have access to the ESO facilities. Perhaps, the cheapest and most efficient solution is access to the Canarian Observatories (unofficially the North European Observatory). We should note the numerous solar telescopes (mainly situated at Tenerife) which can serve the large solar physics group in Greece. There, spectrographs and wide-field cameras on 2.5-4.2m telescopes are available to produce outstanding results in astrophysics (comets, variable stars, galaxies, large-scale structure of Universe). There is also activity and 51% funds against a 10m telescope with possible participation of ESO. In addition, Greek astronomers can already participate in the International Time Project offered at the Canaries (See Hipparchos, Issue 2, p. 5). Within this context (access to an International Observatory), a 5-year plan should be formed to cover the needs of the observational community (astronomical technology, state-funded observing grants at International Observatories, training of observers and technicians at International Observatories). After the 5-year plan, a report should be written outlining the current status of observational astronomy and a meeting should be held to address the need or not of an International subscription (possibly in the form of a consortium of Universities).

Conclusions:

Finally, we summarize our salient points as following:

- Scientific policy for observational astronomy specified
- forum for instrumentation and technology
- Proposal for Foundation of Astronomical Technology Centre
- cooperation agreement with an International Observatory (a first step towards membership).
- support of young Ph. D. students against observing trips, conference trips, visits at other Institutions and also through post-doctoral fellowships.

Emilios Harlaftis, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, U.K.

P. Niarchos, University of Athens

Astronomical Research at the University of Athens

section of Astrophysics, Astronomy and Mechanics

Astronomy is one of the oldest research groups at the the National University of Athens. In section of Astrophysics, Astronomy and Mechanics there are twenty members of staff and forty graduate

students. Research activities cover almost all subjects of Astronomy. The main subjects are:

Analytical Mechanics

Non linear dynamical systems

- Structure of the phase space of dynamical systems

Mechanism of transport and diffusion

Particle escape from a dynamical system

Invariant spectra of non-linear systems

General Relativity

- . Statistical Mechanics

- . Cosmology, Relativity

- . Two black hole problem

- . Chaos in the Mixmaster model of the universe

Comparison of Classical and Quantum Systems

Non-linear systems

Molecular potentials

Galactic dynamics

- . Theory and applications of selfconsistent galaxy models

- . Formation and evolution of galaxies

Extragalactic astrophysics

- . Observations from ground based observatories

- . Observations from Hubble space telescope

- . Stellar systems

- . Stellar groups

- . Star formation regions in galaxies

- . Stellar populations

Variable stars and interacting binaries

- . Eclipsing variables

- . Cataclysmic variables

- . Symbiotic binaries

- . β Cephei stars

- . $B\epsilon$ stars

Stellar atmospheres of A and B stars

- . Structure and evolution of stars

- . Main sequence star models

- . Red giant models

- . Evolution of double stars

- . Evolution of primary star with compact secondary

Spectroscopy

- . Spectra from ground based telescopes

- . Infrared spectroscopy, IRAS spacecraft

- . Ultraviolet spectroscopy, IUE spacecraft

Solar Physics

- . Solar magnetic fields
- . Non-linear models of the Sun and the solar cycle, solar constant variation
- . Radio sun, multichannel observations with the 7m antenna at Thermopylae
- . Radiation in the solar atmosphere
- . Spectroscopy of the photosphere and chromosphere

Plasma Physics

Antimatter in the Universe

High Energy Astrophysics

Space Physics

- . Heliosphere
- . Ulysses spacecraft observations above the solar poles
- . Micro and macrostructure of interplanetary space, the role of turbulence
- . Energetic particle propagation and acceleration in the heliosphere
- . Magnetospheres: Earth and Jupiter

Cosmic rays

Comets

Meteorites

History of Astronomy and Archaeoastronomy

Applied Optics

- . Holography

Algorithm and Software development

Solar Energy and Drying of Agricultural products

X. Moussas

Joint European and National Astronomical Meeting for 1997

J E N A M - 9 7

6th European and 3rd Hellenic Astronomical Society Conference

2 – 5 July 1997, Thessaloniki, Greece

First Announcement

NEW TRENDS IN ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS

The 6th Meeting of the European Astronomical Society (**E.A.S.**) will be held at Thessaloniki, Greece, jointly with the 3rd Conference of the Hellenic Astronomical Society (**Hel.A.S.**). This will be the third time the E.A.S. meets jointly with one of its Affiliated Societies. The Conference will cover the basic fields of Astronomy and Astrophysics and is open to all astronomers who would like to interact and exchange their scientific expertise with their European colleagues.

During the Conference, both the fundamental astronomical knowledge and the exciting new results in experimental and theoretical astrophysics will be presented by experts in the field. We anticipate that the Conference, among the largest to be held in recent years in Europe, will provide new prospects for current research and a first class opportunity to European astronomers to strengthen their bonds.

1. Main Scientific Objectives

Cosmology

High Energy Astrophysics

Nuclei of Galaxies

Neutron Stars, Pulsars and Black Holes

Extra-Solar Planets

Solar Physics and Astrophysical Plasmas

European Astronomy from the Ground and Space

The above subjects will be discussed during invited reviews at *plenary sessions*. *Parallel sessions* covering most subjects of Astronomy will also be organised during the Conference. Finally, *poster sessions* are expected to play an important role in this Conference, addressing recent results, which, in general, cannot be included in the detailed plan of the scheduled sessions.

2. Scientific Organising Committee – SOC

G. Contopoulos (Greece, Co-chairman), A. Renzini (ESO, Co-chairman), J.P. Zahn (France), J. Krautter (Germany), R.L. Davies (United Kingdom), A. Tutukov (Russia), J.H. Seiradakis (Greece), Em. Sarris (Greece), J. Ventura (Greece), C.E. Huber (ESA/ESTEC)

Representatives of Affiliated Societies

C. La Dous (Astron. Gesellschaft), J. Palous (Chech Astron. Soc.), A.E. Sapar (Estonian Astron. Soc.), V.N. Obridko (Euroasian Astron. Soc.), M. Capaccioli (Italian Astron. Soc.), Yu. Frantsman (Latvian Astron. Soc.), A. Woszczyk (Polish Astron. Soc.), M. Stavinschi (Romanian Astron. Soc.), V. Rusin (Slovak Astron. Soc.), J. Marcaide (Soc. Espanola de Astron.), V. Tel'nyuk-Adamchuk (Ukrainian Astron. Soc.)

3. Local Organising Committee – LOC

J.H. Seiradakis (Chairman), N.K. Spyrou (Vice-chairman), M.E. Contadakis (Secretary), H. Varvoglis (Treasurer), J.D. Hadjidemetriou, K.D. Kokkotas, L. Vlahos

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4. Agenda

The scientific discussions will be spread over 10 – 12 intervals, each lasting about 2 hours. During these intervals there will be 3 to 4 parallel sessions organised and chaired by a two-to-three-persons co-ordinating committee. The co-ordinating committees will referee and accept the contributed papers.

5. Invited Speakers

Participation of the following *Plenary Sessions*' Invited Speakers has been either confirmed or tentatively agreed:

Cosmology: *M. Rowan-Robinson (Imperial College, U.K.)*

High Energy Astrophysics: *J. Trümper (MPE, Garching, Germany)*

Nuclei of Galaxies: *R. Genzel (MPE, Garching, Germany)*

Neutron Stars, Pulsars and Black Holes: *R.A. Sunyaev (Moscow, Russia),
J. van Paradijs (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)*

Solar Physics and Astrophysical Plasmas: *A. Gabriel (Paris, France),
G. Haerendel (MPE, Garching, Germany)*

European Astronomy from the Ground and Space:

P. Murdin (PPARC, England - President, European Astronomical Society),

R. Giacconi (ESO, Germany - President, European, Southern Observatory),

L. Woltjer (Haute Provence, France - President, I.A.U.),

A. Renzini (Bologna, Italy),

J. Trümper (MPE, Garching, Germany),

G. Setti (Bologna, Italy)

6. Convenors

The Convenors for the *Parallel Sessions*, as well as their address, are as follows:

Stellar Dynamics

J.D. Hadjidemetriou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of Physics, Section of Astrophysics, Astronomy and Mechanics, GR-54006 Thessaloniki, Greece

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Relativity, Cosmology

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Stellar and Interstellar Astrophysics

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Solar Physics

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Space and Planetary Physics and Astronomy

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7. Conference Location

The Conference will take place in the hotels *Athos Palace* and *Pallini Beach*, located in Kallithea, Chalkidiki, an outstanding resort site, about 90 km from Thessaloniki and 80 km from “Macedonia” airport. The hotels are of category A' with excellent conference facilities, bars, taverns, restaurants, summer sport facilities and a private beach.

At the time of the conference the weather in Greece is fairly warm. The average maximum temperature in July is about 29 °C and the minimum about 20 °C. However, next to the sea the weather is usually much milder: warm in the winter and cooler in the summer. Light clothing is recommended but do include a jacket in your suitcase.

8. Arrival and Departure

Thessaloniki can be reached by car, bus, train or aeroplane. Its international airport is directly connected to most (about 20) major European cities. There are about 10 daily flights between Athens and Thessaloniki (~40' duration) and about as many scheduled train connections (~6 hours – road distance: ~500 km).

From Thessaloniki one can reach the Conference location by public transportation or taxis. A number of Conference shuttle-busses will be operated during the Conference. More details will be presented in a later communication and in the Conference home page (see above).

9. Cultural Events

The City of Thessaloniki (about 1 million inhabitants within its extended borders) offers a wide variety of sights and activities, ranging from world-class culture (archaeological sites, museums, exhibitions) to a variety of entertainment, cuisine and natural wonders. Olympus, the mountain of gods, is less than a couple of hours drive from Thessaloniki. Closeby lies the *Mt.Athos* peninsula, well known for its monasteries and Byzantine treasures.

Thessaloniki has been nominated the *Cultural Capital of Europe for 1997*. Therefore a large number of cultural events have been programmed for this year. Detailed information will be presented in

future announcements and during the Conference.

10. Accommodation – Hotel Reservation

The broader district of Thessaloniki offers several attractions and is well known in Greece as a summer resort area. During the summer months hotel accommodation is usually in high demand and often expensive. The situation is expected to be exaggerated during 1997, while Thessaloniki is the *Cultural Capital of Europe*. Therefore early hotel reservation of the potential participants is highly recommended. Please note that the LOC cannot guarantee reservations after April 10, 1997. A **Hotel Reservation Form** is included in this announcement and may be downloaded from the Conference Web page (<http://www.astro.auth.gr/elaset/jenam97>). Payment for the accommodation of at least one day is necessary for the reservation.

A special agreement for the participants has been negotiated by the LOC with the hotels mentioned in §5:

Single room (limited availability) (half pension)	20000 drachmas
Double room used as single room (half pension)	25000 drachmas
Double room (half pension)	16500 drachmas/per person
Third person in double room (half pension)	11500 drachmas
Extra lunch or supper	2500 drachmas

The current exchange rate is: 1 US\$ = 245 drachmas (GDr)

11. Financial assistance

The Local Organising Committee is working hard towards obtaining local support for the Conference. With the help and support of the University of Thessaloniki and other sponsors, we hope to be able to offer limited free accommodation and subsidence, mainly to Ph.D. students. The Hellenic Astronomical Society is partially supporting its members and we hope that other European Societies will follow a similar approach.

12. Pre-registration

Pre-registration is possible by completing and sending back to the LOC the **Registration Form** included in this message, before **March 15, 1997**. Information about the registration fees is given in the following Table:

	Early Registration (until March 15, 1997)		Late Registration (after March 15, 1997)	
	(US\$)	(GDr)	(US\$)	(GDr)
General registration	100.-	25000.-	125.-	30000.-
E.A.S. Ordinary Member	80.-	20000.-	100.-	25000.-
E.A.S. Junior Member	40.-	10000.-	50.-	13000.-
Hel.A.S. Ordinary Member	40.-	10000.-	50.-	13000.-
Hel.A.S. Junior Member	20.-	5000.-	25.-	6500.-
Accompanying Person	40.-	10000.-	50.-	13000.-

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REGISTRATION FORM¹

Submit this form by normal post or fax to the **Contact address** of the Local Organising Committee, mentioned in §3.

Deadline for early registration: March 15, 1997

Direct questions to: **elaset@astro.auth.gr**

You will receive a confirmation from the LOC as soon as your registration has been processed.

Family Name: _____ First name: _____ Initials: _____
 Title: Professor Dr. Mr. Mrs. Miss Ph.D. Student
 Affiliation for *Name Badge*: _____

E-mail: _____
 Phone number: _____ Fax number: _____

Institution: _____
 Postal address: _____

 City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

Accompanying person(s): _____

	No. of persons	Early Registration (until March 15, 1997)		Late Registration (after March 15, 1997)	
		(US\$)	(GDr)	(US\$)	(GDr)
General registration	× <input type="checkbox"/>
E.A.S. Ordinary Member	× <input type="checkbox"/>
E.A.S. Junior Member	× <input type="checkbox"/>
Hel.A.S. Ordinary Member	× <input type="checkbox"/>
Hel.A.S. Junior Member	× <input type="checkbox"/>
Accompanying Person	× <input type="checkbox"/>
Total amount	

Will you be presenting a paper? (YES²/NO)

Signature:

¹Please complete the **Payment Form** as well.

²Please complete the **Paper Contribution Form**

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H O T E L R E S E R V A T I O N F O R M ³

Submit this form by normal post or fax to the **Contact address** of the Local Organising Committee, mentioned in §3.

Deadline for guaranteed reservation and minimum cancellation fees:
March 15, 1997

Direct questions to: **elaset@astro.auth.gr**

- Reservations may be submitted by *Letter*, by *E-mail* or by *FAX*⁴. Telephone requests will not be accepted.
- The LOC will confirm your reservation within two weeks after your application has been received.

Family Name: _____ First name: _____ Initials: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone number: _____ Fax number: _____

Postal address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

Choose the type of room⁵ that suits you best by checking one box:

Single room⁶ **Double room** **Double room** (single occupancy)

Non-Smoking Special Needs: _____

For all types of room, print names of occupants of each room:

Room 1: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Room 2: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Should the LOC choose your room mates? (yes/no) Sex of room mates: M F Any

Arrival Date & Time: _____ Departure Date: _____

Number of persons Number of nights

Signature:

³Please complete the **Payment Form** as well.

⁴The hotel requires a guarantee for bookings. Please remit a deposit, equivalent to one night's stay, at the rates mentioned above, with your registration. The deposit will be credited to your bill when checking out. If you have indicated more than one choice, please fulfil the deposit requirements of your first choice.

⁵If more rooms are needed, please duplicate this form.

⁶Limited number of rooms, please indicate a second choice, by checking a second box.

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P A P E R C O N T R I B U T I O N ⁷

Submit this form to the **Contact address** of
the Local Organising Committee, mentioned in
§3.

Deadline: March 15, 1997

Direct questions to: **elaset@astro.auth.gr**

I wish to present an oral poster paper in a *parallel session*, in the general area of Astronomy:

Title (preliminary): _____

Special Instructions (optional): _____

Author List:

Name	Address (Institution, Address, City, zip code, Country)
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

Contact Person: _____
(First Name, Initials, Family name)

Full address: _____

(City, Country, zip code)

E-mail: _____

Phone & FAX: _____
(+Country code) (area code) (phone and fax numbers)

The co-ordinating committees will referee and accept the contributed papers.

⁷If you wish to present more than one paper, please duplicate this form.

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P A Y M E N T F O R M

Submit this form by normal post or fax to the **Contact address** of the Local Organising Committee, mentioned in §3.

Deadline for early registration: March 15, 1997

Direct questions to: elaset@astro.auth.gr

Family Name: _____ First name: _____ Institution: _____

Payment Information		
Registration	US\$:	GDr:
Hotel Reservation	US\$:	GDr:
Total amount	US\$:	GDr :

Method of Payment

At the moment we are unable to accept *Credit Card* payments. Most favoured method is by *Money Transfer* to the account mentioned below. In this case please send us the details of the *Transfer Transaction* (name of remitter, date of transaction and Bank name). If you pay by cheque, please add an extra GDr 2000 (US\$ 8) which represents the bank charges. All foreign payments must be in US\$.

- By Cheque (Payable to the order of *H. Varvoglis, JENAM-97*)
- By Money Transfer (Amount transferred _____ Name of remitter _____
Date _____ through _____ (Name of Bank)
to the Conference account (Ref. *JENAM-97* at the "Bank of Macedonia-Thrace, Aggelaki Str. 18, GR-54621 Thessaloniki, Greece, account number **602-00-111-0152413-0**. Please indicate clearly your name, country and the key-word "*JENAM-97*")

Cancellation

In the event of cancellation, written notification should be sent to the LOC. The following *cancellation fees* will be deducted before refunding.

Registration: *Up to June 27, 1997:* the Bank charges, which could be between 0 and 4000 drachmas (US\$ 16 – depending on the method of payment). *After June 27, 1997:* 50% of the registration fees (minimum: the Bank charges).

Hotel reservation: *Up to April 10, 1997:* the Bank charges. *After April 10, 1997:* The hotel deposit + the Bank charges.

As mentioned earlier, the LOC is working hard towards obtaining local support for the Conference. However, at the moment the outlook is not very encouraging. Please indicate below if your attendance will be conditional on receiving financial support.

Comments:

Signature:

PLEASE RETURN ASAP. Do not wait for the deadline of March 15, 1997