

INTRODUCTION

Some few years ago, interest in planetary nebulae was mainly restricted to the study of certain special problems, such as the development of observational techniques and the study of physical processes in the nebulae. More recent work has led to major advances in our understanding of the planetary nebula phenomenon, and of its significance as a stage in the evolution of the stars. It therefore seemed that an IAU Symposium, bringing together workers concerned with all aspects of these problems, would be very opportune.

The Symposium was held in the Hotel Morava at Tatranská Lomnica, Czechoslovakia, September 4–8, 1967. The Organizing Committee consisted of: M. J. Seaton (Chairman), L. H. Aller, Y. Andriolat, K. H. Böhm, D. E. Osterbrock, L. Perek, S. B. Pikelner, and B. A. Vorontsov-Velyaminov. All local arrangements were the responsibility of Dr L. Perek and Engineer V. Rajský. The participants at the Symposium were very appreciative of the excellent hospitality provided by their Czechoslovak hosts. Special mention should be made of the hospitality provided by Dr L. Pajdušáková, of the Astronomical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences at Tatranská Lomnica, and of the help provided by members of her staff, and of members of the staff of the Ondřejov Observatory, in the material organization of the Symposium.

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M. J. SEATON