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Chronicle

THE 7th EAS MEETING (JENAM-98) IN PRAGUE

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The 7th Meeting of the European Astronomical Society (JENAM-98) 'Prospects of Astronomy and Astrophysics' was held in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic jointly with the Annual Meeting of the Czech Astronomical Society on 9–12 September 1998. More than 350 astronomers from 36 states (including representatives from USA, Japan and Venezuela) assembled in the premises of the Prague Technical University. Scientific and Local Organizing Committees plus the Secretariat of JENAM-98 (headed by Prof. J. Palouš and Dr. J. Grygar) had done a lot of preparatory work which encompassed all aspects of life and activities creating good living and working conditions for the participants of JENAM-98, as well as ensuring rich cultural and recreation programmes. Especially attractive and rewarding was the excursion 'Praha Astronomica'. On the final day of JENAM-98 many of the attendees visited the Ondrejov observatory.

The 7th EAS Meeting was organized under the patronage of the President of the Czech Republic, V. Havel. Due to this fact and the generous support from ESA, ESO, EAS, the Ministry of Education and other organizations of the Czech Republic, a great number of travel grants were allocated enabling participation in JENAM-98 for many young scientists, mainly from East European countries.

A volume of abstracts containing summaries of all the scientific contributions submitted to JENAM-98 has been issued by the hosts and distributed among the participants.

The agenda of the Prague Meeting consisted of both plenary and the following seven parallel topical sessions: *Solar Physics, Small Bodies in the Solar System, Astrophysics of Interacting Binaries, Dynamical Studies of Star Clusters and Galaxies, High and Ultra-High Energy Astrophysics, Relativistic Astrophysics and Cosmology*. A number of invited discourses were presented, dealing mainly with ongoing large-scale cosmic and ground-based projects (the full list of invited lectures is given below in the Appendix). Dr. F. Mirabel (France) presented a public lecture 'Microquasars in the Galaxy'. During the closing invited discourse by Sir M. Rees (Great Britain)

'Gamma bursts', the latter became the first recipient of a medal commemorating the 650th anniversary of the founding of the Charles University of Prague, one of the oldest Universities on the European continent.

In addition several panel discussions were held: *Instrumentation and Very Large Projects, Young Astronomers, Teaching of Astronomy & Jobs, and History of Astronomy*. In total nearly 160 oral presentations were submitted at the aforementioned parallel sessions and more than 170 poster papers were on display during the four working days of JENAM-98.

JENAM-98 was immediately preceded by a one-day conference completely devoted to next year's solar eclipse with the band of totality passing through several European countries with established observatories (including Bucharest observatory which just at that time will commemorate the 90th anniversary of its founding). About 50 participants from 14 countries attended the conference and discussed basically the problems of organization of solar corona observations during the eclipse as well as the coordination of satellite and ground-based observations.

Immediately after the completion of JENAM-98 Czech astronomers convened the 65th Annual Meeting of their national Astronomical Society. The highlight of that meeting was Professor L. Skarsi's (Palermo University) invited lecture 'BeppoSAX and progress in understanding gamma-ray bursts'. Dr. I. Dušek from the M. Copernic observatory and planetarium received the Zdenka Kviz annual award for his exemplary organizational activities with amateur astronomers.

A number of important decisions were adopted during the business meeting of the newly elected Council of the EAS. One of the important tools in maintaining relations of both individual members and the affiliated societies with EAS remains the Newsletters of the EAS (editor Dr. M. Kontizas, Greece). According to the resolution passed by the EAS Council the volume of Newsletter issues will be increased. The Newsletters will be publishing on a regular basis and will include a synopsis of the topical 'Newsletters - Cool Stars', 'Newsletters - White Dwarfs', etc. In addition the Newsletters will open up a regular page for affiliated EAS societies to introduce to the European astronomical community the current state of astrophysical research in a specific country (the hosts of the Prague EAS Meeting will be the first on the list). This innovation can be regarded as a prelude to large-scale action once initiated by the former EAS President P. Murdin, and known as 'The Future Vision of European Astronomy'.

Future EAS meetings was one of the main points of discussion at the business meeting. The 8th EAS Meeting will be organized by and convened in France and should take place in Toulouse (France) between 6th and 11th of September 1999. Moscow remains the most probable candidate for the 9th EAS General Meeting scheduled for the year 2000.

The budget of the EAS for 1999 has been approved (nearly 27,000 Swiss francs, one third of which will be allocated to cover the expenses in publishing the Newsletters and Bulletin, and as much for the needs of the Secretariat). The EAS Council decided to retain the so-called *Development Fund* (formerly known as an emergency fund to support astronomy in FSU countries). This small fund will be used to support young scientists willing to participate in annual EAS meetings.

1 APPENDIX: THE LIST OF INVITED DISCOURSES PRESENTED AT THE
7th EAS MEETING IN PRAGUE

- F. Praderie: *A Contribution to Science Integration in Europe: Euroscience.*
L. Woltjer: *European Strategies in Astronomy and Astrophysics.*
M. C. E. Huber: *Future Prospects of European Space Sciences.*
M. Tarenghi: *The Very Large Telescope/Very Large Telescope Interferometer.*
P. Shaver: *The Large Southern Array.*
F. J. Pijpers: *Sensing the Solar Interior with Sound.*
J. Trümper: *X-ray Emission from Neutron Stars.*
F. Mirabel: *Microquasars in the Galaxy.*
I. Novikov: *Old and New Horizons in Black Hole Physics and Astrophysics.*
M. A. C. Perryman: *Milliarc Astrometry: Some Scientific Results from HIPPARCOS.*
M. Šidlovský: *The Dynamics of the Asteroid Belt and Chaos.*
J. Schneider: *Beyond the Discovered Planetary Systems.*
M. Rees: *Gamma Bursts.*