

Foreword

The Kodaikanal Observatory was established in 1899. The accompanying note gives the historical background which led to the setting up of this Solar Observatory. To mark the CENTENARY of this Observatory, and in recognition of its many distinguished contributions to solar physics, a Colloquium on **Cyclical Evolution of Solar Magnetic Fields: Advances in Theory and Observations** was held at the Kodaikanal Observatory. We are very grateful to the International Astronomical Union for agreeing to sponsor this as the IAU COLLOQUIUM 179.

We are thankful to the **Indian Academy of Sciences** for agreeing to publish the Proceedings of this historic colloquium as one of the issues of the *Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy*. The various papers appearing in these proceedings vouch for the continuing interest of solar physicists the world over in the fascinating interplay of magnetic fields and plasma dynamics leading to the sunspot cycle. These papers also demonstrate that the ramifications of the solar cycle extend from deep within the Sun out to the far reaches of the solar system.

The organization of an international meeting, and bringing out the proceedings involves a considerable amount of work. On behalf of the Scientific Organizing Committee we wish to record our gratitude to a number of people and organizations. The original initiative to hold such a meeting came from the solar physics group of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Bangalore. Later several astronomers, in particular Bob Howard, added substance to the idea. Members of the organizing committees of Commissions 10 and 12 of the IAU gave the final shape to the programme.

Mr. Brajesh Kumar of the Udaipur Solar Observatory has helped us in a major way with these proceedings, and we would like to express our sincere thanks to him. Thanks are also due to a number of referees who helped us in processing the written contributions. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Ms Hema Wesley at the Academy for taking the overall responsibility of editing this volume.

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