PREFACE

During the past years, a number of international astronomical conferences were held at the Remeis-Observatory in Bamberg, four of them sponsored by the International Astronomical Union. The first meeting was organized in 1959 and dealt with Variable Stars, the last one was held in 1981 and focussed on 'Binary and Multiple Stars as Tracers of Stellar Evolution'.

The present conference was organized to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel, who was born in Minden on July 22, 1784, and died in Königsberg on March 17, 1846.

When the plan for an international conference on astrometric binaries was presented to several colleagues, we received enthusiastic support and decided to pursue the idea. A Scientific Organizing Committee was soon established, consisting of:

Z. Kopal	<i>Manchester, U.K.</i>	S. M. Gong	<i>Nanjing, China</i>
	(Chairman)	M. Grewing	<i>Tübingen, F.R.G.</i>
V. Abalakin	<i>Pulkovo, U.S.S.R.</i>	P. v. d. Kamp	<i>Amsterdam, Netherlands</i>
J. Dommanget	<i>Uccle, Belgium</i>	M. Kitamura	<i>Tokyo, Japan</i>
M. G. Fracastoro	<i>Torino, Italy</i>	J. Rahe	<i>Bamberg, F.R.G.</i>
W. Fricke	<i>Heidelberg, F.R.G.</i>	Ya. Yatskiv	<i>Kiev, U.S.S.R.</i>
E. H. Geyer	<i>Bonn, F.R.G.</i>		

The meeting took place in Bamberg at the Remeis-Observatory, Astronomical Institute of the University Erlangen-Nürnberg, from June 13 to 15, 1984.

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