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FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF
IAU COLLOQUIUM No. 151 "FLARES AND FLASHES"

IAU Colloquium 151, Flares and Flashes: a multi-wavelength approach to short-term phenomena, in honour of the 65th birthday of G.A. Richter and W. Wenzel, will be held in Sonneberg (Thuringia), Germany, from December 5-9, 1994. IAU Commissions 27, 42, 44 support the colloquium.

The scientific organizing committee consists of H.W. Duerbeck (Germany), G. Fishman (USA), R. Gershberg (Ukraine, chair), J. Greiner (Germany), M. Kato (Japan), A. King (UK), J.-P. Lasota (France), M. Rodonò (Italy), J.I. Smak (Poland) and M.K. Tsvetkov (Bulgaria). The local organizing committee consists of the members of Sonneberg Observatory, H.-J. Bräuer, B. Fuhrmann, P. Kroll, R. Luthardt (chair), S. Rößiger.

The conference aims to bring together specialists from different fields who have a common interest in observing and interpreting short-term (seconds to minutes) events near and on stellar surfaces and in stellar interiors. It will provide a platform for the discussion of flare and flash events observed at all accessible wavelengths, and for the exchange of views on the nature of the physical processes involved. At the same time, the conference should stimulate discussions on how to make existing sky surveys better available for general use and to define the characteristics of future sky patrols - wavelength regions, sensitivities, and time resolutions - which promise best returns according to our present understanding of the phenomena. The programme outline is:

1. *Review talks (without contributed papers)*

Solar flares - Gamma-ray bursts

2. *Flares (reviews and contributions)*

Flares in late type stars, RS CVn stars and T Tau stars (observational studies across the electromagnetic spectrum) - Theory of flares

3. *Flashes (reviews and contributions)*

Stellar variability in late evolutionary stages - Radio flashes from transients, cataclysmic variables, Cyg X-3 - Rapid X-ray variability in AM Her systems - X-ray bursts

Modelling of high energy flashes - Disk instability models of dwarf novae and X-ray transients - Overflow models

4. *Flickering (reviews and contributions)*

Flickering in cataclysmic variables - Quasi-periodic oscillations in low-mass X-ray binaries and transients - Flickering at high energies

5. Instrumental developments / Sky monitoring / Flash search (reviews and contributions)

Plate collections of the world – The Harvard plate collection – The present and future of the Sonneberg Sky Patrol – Future of optical sky patrols – Results of all-sky monitoring at X- and gamma-rays

Techniques of flash searches (gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, gravitational micro-lensing) – Techniques and results of rapid follow-up observations of gamma-ray bursts

More information is available from:

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