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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

SYMPOSIUM No. I

HELD AT GRONINGEN, 22–27 JUNE 1953

CO-ORDINATION OF
GALACTIC RESEARCH

EDITED BY
A. BLAAUW
Yerkes Observatory



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PREFACE

A conference on co-ordination of galactic research was held near Groningen, Netherlands, in June 1953. The report given in the following chapters summarizes the most essential parts of the discussions. In accordance with a decision taken during the conference, no attempt has been made to reproduce the various speeches given by the introductory speakers. It was considered more desirable to have a report with the relevant remarks arranged roughly according to the scheme of the memorandum that had been drawn up before the conference as a basis for the discussions. Many topics have been discussed on various occasions and we have attempted to refer to them in the general context of the subject. No attempt has been made to indicate consistently which of the participants was responsible for the opinions expressed in the report—this would have been impossible anyhow, as usually such opinions arose as the result of general discussions of the subject.

Some of the introductory papers have in the meantime been published or are fairly well covered by certain publications. Parenago's introductory speech on recent work of the Soviet astronomers has appeared in *Astronomical Newsletters*, Nos. 71 and 73. In other cases reference to such publications is given in the lists at the end of the report.

In the discussions, the terms 'halo', 'nucleus' and 'disk' are used to indicate different parts of the Galaxy. These general regions are not defined more precisely. Their introduction proved very useful, and one might rather say that their more exact description is one of the problems of galactic research.

The present report was drawn up by the undersigned, as secretary of the Organizing Committee, and submitted for changes and additions to all who had participated at the conference.

A. BLAAUW

LEIDEN OBSERVATORY, 1953

YERKES OBSERVATORY, 1954

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