## Preface

The Symposium on Planetary Atmospheres and Surfaces, sponsored by International Scientific Radio Union (URSI) and International Astronomical Union (IAU), was held at Dorado, Puerto Rico, May 24 to 27, 1965. The need for the Symposium was recognized by members of Commission II, Radio Propagation in Non-Ionized Media, at the XIVth General Assembly of URSI held in Tokyo in September 1963. Through the initiative of Commission II, the sponsorship of URSI with the active participation of Commissions II and V, Radio and Radar Astronomy, and of the IAU, were secured. The Symposium had the financial support of the URSI.

Session topics, an invited speaker for each session, and a list of researchers active in the fields were selected by the Organizing Committee. The members of the Organizing Committee were:

Dr. J. C. Bolton, CSİRO, Radiophysics Division

Dr. F. du Castel, Centre National d'Etudes des Telecommunications

Prof. G. R. A. Ellis, University of Tasmania

Dr. J. V. Evans, M.I.T., Lincoln Laboratory

Akad. V. A. Kotelnikov, Institute for Radio Techniques and Electronics, Moscow, USSR.

Dr. C. D. Mayer, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory

Prof. D. H. Menzel, Harvard College Observatory

Dr. D. O. Muhleman, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Dr. G. H. Pettengill, Arecibo Ionospheric Observatory

Dr. J. Voge, Centre National d'Etudes des Telecommunications

Dr. A. T. Waterman, Jr., Stanford University, Electronics Research Lab.

Prof. W. E. Gordon, Arecibo Ionospheric Observatory, Chairman

Each session consisted of the invited paper, shorter contributions and discussion. In this issue the invited papers appear in full, the shorter contributions appear in full or in summary, and the discussions appear summarized from notes prepared by the session chairmen who were respectively:

Prof. J. Warwick

Prof. G. L. Berge

Prof. F. D. Drake

Dr. Richard Goldstein

Dr. G. H. Pettengill

Mr. J. E. Gibson

The Editor of Radio Science offered this issue to the Committee, and has helped to speed its publication. Rapid publication of the proceedings was an important obligation of the Organizing Committee since the attendance was limited to invitees. The Committee is grateful to the Editor of Radio Science for his cooperation.

The Committee thanks Dr. T. Hagfors for his presentation of the J. V. Evans paper, Dr. A. E. Salomonovich for his presentation of the V. S. Troitsky paper, and Dr. S. Gulkis for his assistance with the manuscripts.

The Symposium highlighted several controversies, notably concerning the rotational period of the planet Mercury, the dielectric constant of the lunar surface layer, and the validity and meaning of radar echoes reportedly obtained from Jupiter. A lively discussion among the participants was generated on each of these topics.

All radar observers agree on the retrograde sense of the Venus rotation and Dr. I. Shapiro described, in an imaginative way, a possible reason for the sense of the rotation.

A highlight of the Symposium was the radar mapping of surface features of the planets Venus and Mars, the latter having an apparent relation with optical features, and of the craters of the Moon with a resolution equal to the unaided eye.

Although the word weather was not used specifically, several of the observations reported were related in a broad sense to the weather and its changes on the planets.

W. E. GORDON Chairman

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