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Foreword

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Foreword

This volume, Supplementum/2005 to the journal Acta Universitatis Carolinae Mathematica et Physica, contains papers from the international colloquium “Astronomy in and around Prague”, which was held in Prague on September 20, 2004. The colloquia of the Working Group for the History of Astronomy are regularly included in the programme of the Annual meeting of the Astronomische Gesellschaft; in 2004, this meeting was organized together with the Czech Astronomical Society in the days following in Prague.

The organizers, Peter Brosche (University of Bonn), Gudrun Wolfschmidt (University of Hamburg), and Martin Šolc (Charles University of Prague), intended to devote this colloquium to the interesting chapters in the history of astronomy in Central Europe and particularly in Bohemia, in the period from the Medieval times up to the recent past. Thanks to the astronomers and historians of science, who have been drawn to the colloquium topics, this intention has been fulfilled.

Several papers presented at the colloquium bring new results of investigation, while other papers represent an overview of particular periods in the development of astronomy in Bohemia, and many papers point out the scientific contacts with institutions and persons abroad. The last contribution addressed the coexistence, mutual relations and collaboration of astronomers from German and Czech Universities in Prague, including the time of World War II. It was revealed in the discussion that this topic reaches far beyond the scope of only one contribution and that it deserves a separate more extensive meeting to cover all the different facets of this time in an unbiased way. This is also the reason why only the abstract of the last contribution was included in these proceedings.

Finally, the editors would like to express thanks to all the participants who came to Prague and submitted their contributions to the colloquium proceedings.

Prague, December 6, 2004

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