

Editorial

New Editor-in-Chief

Geneve, Utrecht and Saltsjöbaden, December 28, 1998

Dr. James Lequeux has been an Editor-in-Chief of Astronomy and Astrophysics for 15 years, from 1979 to 1983 and from 1989 to the end of 1998. Dr. Lequeux has informed the Board of Directors of Astronomy and Astrophysics that he wishes to resign from his position at the end of 1998. The Board of Directors has taken note of his decision with both comprehension and regret. It expresses its deep gratitude to Dr. Lequeux for all the work he has done for Astronomy and Astrophysics with very high professional competence, a wise judgment and a great dedication. The Journal has greatly benefited from the activity and personality of James Lequeux, who has played an essential role in several important developments of Astronomy and Astrophysics, in particular in the relations with other astronomical journals, in organizing with the CDS in Strasbourg the long-term electronic archiving of A&A and in establishing a mirror site at the CDS. The Board of Directors and the European astronomical community are very indebted to Dr. Lequeux and offer him their very best wishes for the future.

The Board of Directors has appointed Dr. Claude Bertout (Institut d'Astrophysique, Paris) as an Editor-in-Chief to succeed Dr. Lequeux from the beginning of 1999. Dr. Claude Bertout is a well-known astrophysicist working on star formation and accretion disks. He is "Director de Recherches de première classe" at the CNRS and has been Director of the Lab of Astrophysics of the Grenoble Observatory from 1990 to 1996. The Board welcomes Dr. Claude Bertout.

The Board of Directors is pleased to point out to the authors and readers of A&A that the backlog and the resulting delay in the publication of papers has essentially been suppressed, so that now the papers are published shortly after they have been accepted. Also, it is to be emphasized that the electronic version of A&A is available about 1–2 months before the printed version. In this context, it is now very important to reduce the relatively long time of the refereeing process, so that the astronomical community may take full advantage of a fast publication of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

For the Board of Directors:

A. Maeder, Chairman

A.G. Hearn, Vice-Chairman

Aa. Sandqvist, Chairman-Elect