

Message of the President

The Activity Report of the International Foundation HFSJG is the report on another truly active year. A large number of scientists have collected meteorological, environmental, and astronomical data during a total of 1622 person-days and/or nights at the Research Stations on Jungfrauoch and Gornergrat. In addition a vast amount of data has been collected by automatic monitoring. This accumulated wealth of information has been laid down in 132 publications and six dissertations. Jungfrauoch is a key station for 13 national and international environmental network programs. The Foundation has co-sponsored an exceptionally well-attended international conference on "The Dense Interstellar Medium in Galaxies" in Zermatt. The Research Stations have attracted a large number of scientific and otherwise motivated visitors from all over Europe and beyond. Thus the Foundation has continued, and if anything, expanded its role as a virtual research institute.

The bulk of the present Activity Report consists of the research results of 32 research groups. The Foundation is indebted to them for their excellent and punctual manuscripts. They make fascinating reading indeed.

Very special thanks are due to the Director of the Research Stations, Professor Erwin Flückiger. His report on the following pages gives an idea of his countless and untiring activities towards successful operation of the stations. Without his deep involvement in all aspects the Foundation would be non-functional and the present report would consist of only white pages.

Of course many individuals, institutions, and organisations have supported the Director in a variety of ways and sometimes in essential matters. He has enumerated and thanked them in his report. I fully and heartily join his thanks without repeating all the names. My special thanks, however, are due to the international delegates of the Foundation, whose devotion to our joint endeavor is so essential. I also want to single out the Swiss National Science Foundation for its understanding of the needs of the HFSJG and for the continued financial support.

At the Board Meeting of the Foundation in Interlaken in October 2003, I had the great pleasure to announce that the Senate of the Swiss Academy of Sciences had nominated - upon the recommendation of the (Swiss) Jungfrauoch Commission - Professor Hans Balsiger as my successor as President of the Foundation, effective January 1st, 2004. I have always considered myself as an interim President during the illness and after the untimely death of my venerable predecessor, Professor Hermann Debrunner. Now I am extremely happy to see Hans Balsiger taking the chair; he is an eminent Bernese space physicist with broad experience in international affairs - as well as a good friend over many years. May he have as easy times in heading the successful Foundation as I had during my term!

G. A. Tammann

Basel, May 15th, 2004

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