Workshop on the golden age of cataclysmic variables and related objects

Palermo, Italy September 12-17, 2011

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FOREWORD

New results coming from the new generation satellites, especially in the hard X–ray and γ–ray regions, renewed the interest of scientific community about CVs. This, together with the new developments in searching for the progenitors of type Ia Supernovae was the main reason for organizing this workshop on **The Golden Age of Cataclysmic Variables and Related Objects**.

This is the first meeting of a series that we want to organize with biennial cadence in Palermo in the beautiful Mondello bay.

We are completely convinced that a deep discussion about CVs and related objects, mostly through the physical processes occurring inside those systems, is the most powerful way for a better and faster development of our knowledge just of the cataclysmic processes, rather usual in the Universe.

For this purpose, we invited distinguished colleagues representative the most important space– and ground–based experiments of the present generation. They painted the whole panorama on the experimental results and on their interpretation by using current models and/or developing new ideas for a better comprehension of the detected phenomena. During the discussion of a lot of new results, obtained along most of the electromagnetic spectrum, we have learned that the astrophysics of galactic sources is still extremely interesting and unavoidable. Indeed it provides crucial information on the same physical processes occurring also in the extra–galactic sources, with obvious different scale factors.

Many thanks to the authors, which accepted our reminders recalled at the beginning of the workshop, for keeping to schedule. However, in spite of the accurate respect of the dead line of a number of authors, we still suffer a delay in publishing these proceedings because of the laziness of a considerable part of other authors. In spite of this, these proceedings will appear within one year from the workshop date.

This is the first edition of the workshop, whose proceedings are published by the 'Memorie della Societá Astronomica Italiana'.

We would like to thank all participants and especially the speakers for their active contributions in rendering this workshop updated with their talks, alive with their discussions, and friendly with their attitudes. Particular thanks to Mr Francesco Reale for his excellent assistance for informatics in Roma, during the preparation of the workshop, and for his faultless assistance in Palermo.

A very special thank to Dr Daniela Giovannini for her precious help in managing the workshop.

We are grateful to the pianist Maestra Valentina Usai, to the violinist Maestro Alessandro Perpich and to the actresses Lisa Colosimo and Flavia Giovannelli for their wonderful opera "L'histoire du Soldat" and "Suite Italienne" staged in the suggestive atmosphere of the Splendid La Torre Hotel.

A special thank to Dr Riccardo Antonini who gave a talk in a Special Night Session about "A Nuclear Weapons Free World: we already live in". The corresponding paper is available and will be sent upon request at the following addresses: franco.giovannelli@iaps.inaf.it or r.antonini@governo.it.

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Finally, we would like to thank Mr Daniele Inzerillo, the Chef of the Splendid La Torre Hotel, who delighted us with his creations during our stay and to the whole staff of the Hotel for their professionalism and kindness.

The Editors
Franco Giovannelli and Lola Sabau-Graziati