

PREFACE

Symposium No. 88 of the International Astronomical Union was devoted to a comprehensive review of all types of close binary stars. The nine sessions were organized according to the type of the objects to be discussed. We have preserved this system, but assembled twelve papers of a more general character (reviews and surveys) into a special chapter placed at the beginning of this book.

We would like to remind the reader that the Symposium was preceded by the IAU Colloquium No. 53 on White Dwarfs and Variable Degenerate Stars, and that the sessions on Cataclysmic Variables and related topics at the two meetings supplemented each other.

The discussion in Toronto was carefully recorded by Mr. Robert Gauthier. We also wish to thank Mr. Robert O'Daniel, Ms. Joan Kaufmann, and Ms. Linda Reimers for assisting us with the editorial work.

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Our special thanks go to the members of the Scientific Organizing Committee.

The Symposium was attended by 170 participants from 26 countries. All the local organization was on the shoulders of the Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Dr. C. T. Bolton. Their work was splendid, and our sincere thanks are offered to all of them.

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