

INTRODUCTION

It is a pleasure for me to introduce the reader to a book specifically devoted to the research on light pollution. The aim of this book is to support the research in this field giving to the researchers the possibility to publish together their works on the argument. We thanks the Italian Astronomical Society for the sensivity demonstrated accepting my proposal. From early '80, this Society was in first position in the battle against light pollution in Italy preparing, through its *Commission for the study of light pollution*, a Bill which was presented to the Italian parliament, where it is under discussion, and participating to the preparation of a national technical standard.

Many arguments are discussed in this book, ranging from the effects of light pollution on plants to the hazard to astronomy from space debris, from the radio pollution to the effect of air pollution on the propagation of light pollution, from the growth of the sky glow to its colors. Many measurements, computations and maps of sky brightness, sky luminance, magnitude loss and upward flux are presented. The connection between sky brightness, upward fluxes and particular kinds of fixtures is also discussed in this book but conclusions are not always in agreement.

The issue contains a non negligible contribution from Italian researchers. I think that I am not wrong identifying in the Asiago Autumn Rendezvous, organized by the University of Padova and the Astronomical Observatory of Padova-Asiago the 5th and 6th October 1995, the first seed for an Italian research on light pollution. The first day of this international meeting, organized by F. Bertola and by me, with the presence of D. Crawford and F. J. Diaz Castro, was devoted to discuss measurements of Light Pollution. I think it was the first time from the epoch of Bertiau's studies that a scientific discussion on the behaviour of light pollution was done in Italy among many researchers.

What make me happy is that a number of students show interest for this argument. In the last two years 2 degree thesis about light pollution were discussed at University of Padova, another will be discussed soon at University of Milan. They join to the thesis already discussed at the University of Catania some years ago.

Another appreciable thing is the large interdisciplinarity of people involved rising from astronomy to natural sciences, from biology to environmental physic and lighting engineering.

I hope that a better knowledge of light pollution will help a better control of it.

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