FOREWORD

Serge Koutchmy, Piet Martens & Kazunari Shibata

Meeting Co-Chairmen

This truly international Solar Physics meeting, with a good mixture of participants from Europe, the US, and Asia, had titles in French and English – ‘Les Jets Solaires X et les Plumes Coronales’ and ‘Solar Jets and Coronal Plumes’. It was held on the delightful French island of Guadeloupe, in the midst of the Caribbean, from 23 to 26 February 1998. The Local Organising Committee, chaired by Professor Christian Asselin de Beauville, did an excellent job in taking care of the arrangements for all participants, and managing the conference venue. The Université des Antilles et de Guyane (UAG), host of the conference, has provided outstanding meeting facilities on their Guadeloupe campus: a modern, spacious and cool auditorium, with excellent acoustics, and state-of-the-art projection and sound equipment, situated in a building on the top of a hill with a stunning view of the Caribbean Sea, for all participants to enjoy during the breaks.

This was the first meeting completely focused on the subjects of jets and plumes. The Scientific Organising Committee had arranged for a programme dominated by invited reviews on recent data obtained by the SOHO and Yohkoh spacecraft, and on theoretical work in many cases inspired by these new observations. Both the invited reviews and the contributed papers (oral and posters) were of very high quality, often illustrated by fascinating movies of solar images or simulations. It became clear during the meeting that we do have a good theoretical framework, mainly developed by Japanese groups, for understanding solar jets, but that plumes and also spicules remain largely unexplained. In the final review talks by Jim Klimchuk and Oddbjorn Engvold it was concluded that the joint analysis of multi-wavelength data from SOHO, Yohkoh, soon TRACE, and many ground based observatories, holds the best promise for further progress in analysis and theory. Therefrom a consensus among the participants was reached that a follow-up meeting in a year or two, in the form of a co-ordinated data analysis workshop on the same clearly defined subjects, is very desirable.

A French television crew was present to prepare a documentary on the eclipse, the scientific meeting, and SOHO. Prior to departing for Guadeloupe, the group had interviewed Roger Bonnet, Head of the ESA Science Programme; during the meeting, it filmed several sessions and interviewed participants. For their documentary they also requested eclipse data from SOHO and Yohkoh. The SOHO Project Scientist has requested copies of the documentary, to be distributed among interested parties. A Japanese journalist from the Asahi Shimbun was also present to prepare a news story through interviews with several of the meeting participants.

The social programme of the meeting was characterised by a high degree of informality and a cheerful atmosphere. The absolute climax was the viewing of the total solar eclipse by the participants on Thursday 26 February, at 14:31 local time (18:31 UT) at an isolated place called ‘La-Chapelle-Sainte-Anne’ in the little village of Petit-Canal. This location provided for magnificent viewing from a bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. For many of the participants, in particular the theorists, this was their first total eclipse. The spectacle was awe-inspiring with Mercury and Jupiter visible close to the Sun during totality, and Venus at some distance. One could see a puffy white light corona, with two streamers and several plumes. The experience was a spiritual one for many participants, leaving them silent afterwards.

During the closing buffet, that same evening, the participants were treated to Afro-Caribbean dances improvised by Guadeloupean students mimicking passionately the 26 February solar eclipse taking their inspiration from ancient Africa’s myths and legends and the history of the Caribbean.
The Meeting was judged by most of participants as a great success, with a strong science programme and focus, pleasant surroundings, and the amazing eclipse spectacle. In conclusion, we, co-chairmen of this meeting, wish to express our deep gratitude to the Local Organising Committee; to Professor Christian Asselin de Beauville, its chairman; to the Université des Antilles et de Guyane, the host; to the Scientific Organising Committee, responsible for the focused programme; to Jean Mouette, the secretary of the meeting, whose tireless work in the background has been a major factor in the meeting’s success; to Valery Kouchmy for making the artwork of the Meeting poster – which appears also on the cover of this publication; and finally to Tan-Duc Guyenne, the ESA proceedings editor, whose contagious enthusiasm, and continuous prodding of the authors has made the timely publication of these proceedings possible.

We also thank our sponsors: CNRS, COSTEP, ESA and UAG, for their financial and organisational support, without which this meeting could not have taken place.
Session 1
Spicules, Spikes, Macrospicules, Ejecta (TR Plasmoids), Mini-surges

Chairperson: H. Zirin