

Foreword

In the RACAH CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE, which took place from February 21-24, 2010 at the Paraninfo of the University of Zaragoza,¹ we intended to review the scientific contributions of G. Racah on the light of new developments in the last part of the XX century. Various expert speakers were invited to report on the actual status of the spectroscopy in its three branches, molecular, atomic and nuclear, and others were invited to cover the different aspects of the algebraic machinery introduced by Racah. Besides plenary speakers, several practitioners of Racahs techniques contributed presenting short communications. The event also covered Giulio Racahs scientific biography, as well as an overview of his influence in the creation and establishment of theoretical physics Institutes in Israel, in the historical context they occurred. This historical retrospective was presented by direct collaborators and disciples of G. Racah.

Unfortunately, due to some difficulties of different nature, some of the specialists originally intended in the programme, like B. R. Judd (Baltimore, USA), David Rowe (Toronto, Canada), Igal Talmi and Nissan Zeldes (Jerusalem, Israel) and Sigitas Alishauskas (Vilnius, Lithuania) could finally not attend the conference.

This meeting was possible thanks to the financial and infrastructure support of the following institutions:

- Fundación Ramón Areces, Madrid
- Diputación General de Aragón
- Universidad de Zaragoza
- Real Academia de Ciencias de Zaragoza

The organizers are indebted to R. Nuñez-Lagos for accepting to be the Scientific Secretary of the conference. We also extend our gratitude to J. F. Cariñena, M. Asorey, J. Clemente Gallardo, V. Azcoiti and H. de Guise for further support and help in some critical problems of last minute. Special thanks go to Esther Hernández Gimeno. Many organization aspects wouldn't have worked without her expertise and assistance.

Finally we would like to thank the following persons that accepted to intervene in the opening ceremony of the conference in representation of their institutions:

¹The official site of the meeting is <http://www.unizar.es/acz/congressRacah/>

- Julio Rodríguez-Villanueva as representative of the Scientific Board of the Fundación Ramón Areces.
- Anabel Elduque as the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Zaragoza.
- José Antonio Mayoral in representation of the Rector of the University of Zaragoza.

The conference consisted of a limited number of one hour plenary talks, as well as a number of short communications (30 min.). The original plan of editing the proceedings including all the interventions finally had to be turned down. However, following the wishes of the organizers, we decided to edit at least a volume that could be seen as representative of the contents of the Racah Centennial Conference. At this point the special role played by prof. M. R. Kibler in the achievement of this objective has to be emphasized. Certainly, without his encouraging support these Proceedings would have never existed.

The Editors

Rutwig CAMPOAMOR-STURBERG

Luis Joaquín BOYA