



Foreword

One August night in 2006, after a long conference day, we were sitting at a diner table of a restaurant on rue Daguerre, in the 14th arrondissement of Paris, chatting and reminiscing about the good old days when we were working as Robert Buchler's postdocs in Gainesville, Florida. For so many years, Robert has been consistently employing one or two postdocs at a time, usually for two years. They were selected so that the young fellow can contribute to advances in Robert's field of research. But beyond this professional goal, Robert felt some moral duty to hire young researches and to give them the opportunity of learning more about research.

So there we were, over a glass of wine, remembering how the Buchlers would do anything to make the arriving young postdoc feel at home in Gainesville and recalling various "adventures" which befell many of us in Gainesville – some funny, some less funny. Everyday life would have been very difficult for each of us without the warm help of Daniele Buchler. Working with Robert was a rich experience as well as fun: hard work, tough discussions over disagreements, but excitement when new results were unfolding.

Buchler's postdocs, both young and old, would often meet at various conferences. Always, there would be among them the impression that this "famille" has been working together in the field of stellar pulsation, even if they missed a common period of time working with Robert. The continuity connecting the work

of successive family members bound us together; as Robert's postdocs, we all have the feeling of belonging to the same family.

We then decided that it would be nice to take the opportunity of Robert's 65th birthday to organize a conference in the following year, 2007, which would bring together as many of Robert's postdocs as possible. Maybe even all of them? Although Robert has worked in many fields and some postdocs are no longer working in the same field, we decided that the conference topic must be nonlinear pulsations and hydrodynamics of Cepheids. Robert Buchler has contributed extensively to the theoretical modelling and understanding of the Cepheid pulsations, and this is Robert's favorite area of research. Three dimensional numerical simulations are now being developed in order to model the highly nonlinear pulsations of Cepheids. At the same time, new observations such as those based on interferometric measurements provide new observational constraints. The goal of the meeting thus evolved to promote interaction between theoreticians modelling Cepheids and observers in order to identify the needs of both groups and to find what each group can provide to the other one. We preferred a conference in which students also attended, and each section of the conference was initiated with a tutorial talk (not included in the present proceedings).

And so it was. We succeeded in contacting nearly all of the postdocs, who enthusiastically supported our plan. With just a few unavoidable exceptions, most of them made themselves available to attend the meeting in Paris. It was a great pleasure to organize this friendly and fruitful conference.

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Robert Buchler (costumed as Louis the XIV) and his postdocs: from left to right: Mario Livio, Ariel Marom, Oded Regev, Philip Yecko, Jean-Philippe Beaulieu, Zoltán Kolláth, Mariejo Goupil, Pawel Moskalik, Géza Kovács, Ami Glasner in the front and Robert Szabó in the back.