

PREFACE

The arrangement of the seventh volume of the *Transactions of the International Astronomical Union* differs only in details from that of the preceding volumes. In the present volume the reports of commissions have been so arranged that for each commission the report prepared before the meeting is followed directly by the reports on the meetings of the same commission. The reports on a few colloquia held at the occasion of the Zürich meeting have been given separately. An alphabetical index to subjects has been added at the end of the volume.

In the after-war years the task of the Bureau of the I.A.U. would have been very heavy indeed if I had not had the efficient help of Miss H. A. Kluyver, who has carried out a great, and the least agreeable, part of it. I wish to thank her for her constant and dependable support.

Although the task of a General Secretary is extensive, I have found it at the same time a very pleasant one in the great amount of personal contact and sometimes real friendship I have encountered with colleagues with whom relations otherwise would have been restricted to a few meetings of the Union. I should like to express my gratitude to friends and colleagues through whom my affiliation with the Union has been made so agreeable. I wish to use this opportunity to express my feelings of indebtedness towards two men in particular: to Sir Harold Spencer Jones, with whom such a harmonious co-operation developed during the three years preceding the Zürich meeting, and to Dr Adams, who was immediately found ready to take over an important part of my duties when, during the war-years, the Netherlands were cut off from so many other countries.

The present volume is largely the result of the activity of presidents, and also secretaries, of commissions. Professors Struve, Minnaert and Swings have most kindly taken care of the editing of the reports of the colloquia, in addition to commission reports.

I owe thanks to the Cambridge University Press for the pains they have taken to carry out the printing of this volume according to pre-war standards.

J. H. OORT,
General Secretary

STERREWACHT,
LEYDEN, HOLLAND
November, 1948