

PREFACE

This volume of the Transactions of the International Astronomical Union summarizes the work of our XXIInd General Assembly which was held in The Hague, The Netherlands, from August 15 to 27, 1994. The scientific programme of this Assembly was organised by the Presidents of the IAU Commissions and coordinated by the General Secretary (1991-1994) Dr. Jacqueline Bergeron. The perfect local arrangements organised by the National Organising Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. H. van Woerden and by the Local Organising Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ernst Raimond resulted in a very smooth and pleasant meeting.

The Inaugural Ceremony on August 18 took place in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and representatives of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, the Ministry for Education and Sciences, the City of The Hague, and the Netherlands Committee for Astronomy. The addresses given during this Ceremony form Chapter I of these proceedings.

Chapter II lists the results and decisions of the two working sessions of the General Assembly. Chapter III records the Closing Ceremony. Chapter IV lists the Statutes, Bye-Laws, and part of the Working Rules of our Union, as amended at the XXIInd General Assembly. The following chapters contain the reports of Executive Committee and of the IAU Commissions as well as lists of the members of the Union and of the individual Commissions.

The scientific programme of the XXIInd General Assembly consisted of six topical Symposia, 20 Joint Discussions, Working Group meetings, and several Special Sessions. The Proceedings of the six Symposia will be published in the IAU Symposium Series (Volumes 164-169), while the proceedings of the other scientific events have been recorded in the "Highlights of Astronomy" Vol. 10.

The production of these Transactions would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Presidents of Commissions who provided camera-ready manuscripts of their sections, of the members of the Resolutions Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. J. C. Pecker, and of the official translators J. Rountree and R. Cayrel. Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Léger-Orine and Mrs. Saucedo-Crook for their excellent work in the editing of this volume.

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Immo Appenzeller
General Secretary