

## Preface

The XIXth General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union was held in New Delhi, India, from November 19 to 28, 1985. It was dedicated to the memory of a former IAU President, Professor M.K.V. Bappu, who tragically passed away on August 19, 1982. On the occasion of the Delhi General Assembly, the IAU Minor Planet Center announced that Minor Planet (asteroid) No. 2596 henceforth will carry the name Vainu Bappu. The full text of the announcement reads :

"(2596) VAINU BAPPU = 1979 KN (diameter about 8 kilometers, period 5 years 4 months, mean distance from the Sun around 450 million kilometers)

Discovered 1979, May 19, by R.M. West at the European Southern Observatory.

Named in memory of Manali Kallat Vainu Bappu (1927-1982), famous Indian Astrophysicist and a dear friend of the discoverer. Educated at Harvard and Caltech, he established, under difficult circumstances, the first modern Indian observatory at Naini Tal during the 1950s. Appointed director of the Kodaikanal Observatory in 1960, he subsequently founded and directed the Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Bangalore. He was the initiator and driving force of many projects, among them the 2.3-m Kavalur telescope, entirely designed and built in India. In the multiple roles of brilliant scientist, teacher and administrator, he contributed decisively to the high level of astronomy and astrophysics in India today. He served as Vice-President (1967-1973) and President (1979-1982) of the IAU and as chairman of the editorial board of the *Indian Journal of Astronomy and Astrophysics*".

During the Inaugural Ceremony, on November 19, a very special date since it corresponded to the birthday of the late Mrs. Indira Gandhi, a one-rupee stamp representing Halley's comet was issued in the presence of India's Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and of the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs Sri Ram Niwas Mirdha.

The scientific programme of excellent quality, as can be seen from the reports included in this book and from the 900 pages of the "Highlights of Astronomy", Volume 7, was organized by the Presidents of the 40 IAU Commissions and coordinated by the IAU General Secretary (1982-1985), Dr. R.M. West. The local arrangements were taken care of by numerous hard workers from Delhi and from Bangalore, under the supervision of Prof. M.G.K. Menon (Chairman of the National Organizing Committee), and of Prof. A.P. Mitra (Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee).

The present volume, IAU Transactions XIX B, summarizes the work of the XIXth General Assembly. The discourses given during the Inaugural Ceremony, held at Siri Fort Auditorium, are reproduced in Chapter I. The proceedings of the two sessions of the General Assembly are found in Chapter II, which includes the Resolutions and other aspects of the administration of the Union : they provide the official record of the business of the General Assembly, and, together with the Executive Committee report (Chapter III), constitute the permanent record for the Union in the period 1982-1985.

In addition, this volume contains the Commission Reports from Delhi, compiled by the Presidents of the Commissions (Chapter IV). Pending re-edition of a complete *Astronomer's Handbook*, which is in preparation, Chapter V gives some information about a few activities of the Union, as well as its Statutes and By laws. Finally, Chapter VI, "Membership", contains the list of countries adhering to the Union, member lists of IAU Commissions, and also an

alphabetical list of the more than 6000 individual members of the IAU (with addresses, phone and telex numbers, affiliation to commission(s)). This list will also be published separately and updated every year.

In order to make the information contained in this volume available at the earliest possible date, a tight production schedule was imposed. This would not have been possible without the efficient cooperation of the members of the Resolutions' Committee, and in particular of Drs. McCarthy and Morton, and of the Commission Presidents who provided the camera-ready manuscripts for Chapter IV. I am in addition most grateful to Mrs. B. Manning and to Miss D. Lours from the Paris IAU Secretariat for their expert help in typing, preparing and assembling the documents for publication : this was indeed a tremendous job. Furthermore I acknowledge with thanks Mrs. Manning, Miss Lours, Dr. R. Ferlet, and some French speaking Commission Presidents or Vice-Presidents for their help in putting together a (hopefully) correct English to French translation of the numerous Resolutions.

IAU Secretariat  
61, avenue de l'Observatoire  
F-75014 Paris  
France

Jean-Pierre Swings  
General Secretary, IAU  
May 15, 1986