

## FOREWORD

The XXist General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union was held in Buenos Aires from July 23 to August 1, 1991. The activities of General Assemblies are designed to provide opportunities for scientific exchanges within scientific commission meetings or during informal exchanges and for establishing new personal links between astronomers from different countries and continents, and to review and conduct the administration of the Union.

At the Inaugural ceremony on July 23, the Union was honored by the presence of the President of the Republic of Argentina, Dr. Carlos S. Menem, the representatives of the Argentine government, of the city of Buenos Aires and of the National and Local Organizing committees.

The excellent scientific programme in Buenos Aires was organized by the Presidents of the forty IAU Commissions and coordinated by the IAU General Secretary (1988-1991), Prof. Derek McNally. The local arrangements were taken care of by Dr. Fernando R. Colomb, and his collaborators of the National Organizing Committee and by the Local Organizing Committee under the supervision of its chairman, Dr. Roberto H. Mendez.

The present volume, IAU Transactions XXIB, summarizes the work of the XXist General Assembly. The discourses given during the Inaugural and Closing Ceremonies are reproduced in chapters I & III respectively. The proceedings of the two sessions of the General Assembly will be found in chapter II, which includes the Resolutions, the report of the Finance Committee and the Accounts and other aspects of the administration of the Union. Together with the report of the Executive Committee for this last triennium (chapter IV), they provide the permanent record for the Union in the period 1988-1991. This volume also contains the Commission reports from Buenos Aires compiled by the Presidents of Commissions (chapter V). The Statutes, By-Laws and a few working rules of the Union are published in chapter VI. Finally, chapter VII contains the list of countries adhering to the Union and the alphabetical, geographical and commission membership lists of over 7350 individual IAU members. The IAU still appears to be unique among the scientific Unions in maintaining this category of individual membership which contributes in a crucial way to the spirit and the aims of the Union. These lists will also be published separately.

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General Secretary, IAU  
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