

Preface

IAU Colloquium 91 on History of Oriental Astronomy was held at the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, from November 13 to November 16, 1985. Eighty four participants from nineteen countries including forty eight from India attended the symposium. The Colloquium was sponsored by the International Astronomical Union (IAU); International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science; Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi; Department of Science & Technology through the National Organizing Committee for the IAU General Assembly, New Delhi; Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore; Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi; Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Bombay and University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

Forty six papers were presented at the Colloquium of which ten were invited papers, covering mainly the characteristics and achievements of oriental astronomy; inter-regional development and mutual influences; ancient data relating to eclipses, supernovae, comets; mediaeval astronomical developments; instruments; observatories and related topics with emphasis on how theoretical studies were gradually nourished by the observational astronomy. All the contributed papers presented in the Colloquium were critically examined by the editors and as such, some of the papers have not been included in these Proceedings. We are grateful to Professor E.S. Kennedy and Dr. Michel Teboul for editing some of the manuscripts. The papers in the Proceedings have been arranged broadly in chronological order of the era they refer to.

Several social and cultural events, including an evening of Indian classical dances, were organised during the Colloquium to give the participants a touch of India. Visits were arranged to the well known Jai Singh Observatory in New Delhi built of stone, the famous Qutub Minar, the ancient Iron Pillar and also to Son-et Luminiere at the Red Fort which depicted the history of India over the last 500 years, particularly of the Mughal period.

An exhibition of charts giving astronomical contributions of the oriental cultures, photographs of scientific instruments from earlier stages to the seventeenth century and display of important Indian manuscripts and source books were organized which attracted a great deal of interest among the participants.

A book on **History of Astronomy in India** edited by S.N.Sen and K.S. Shukla, published by INSA, New Delhi, was released to commemorate the occasion.

We are grateful to many colleagues in INSA and TIFR for their valuable contributions to the successful organisation of the Colloquium. We are specially thankful to Mrs. Sabnam Shukla and Mr.B.N.Chakrabarty of INSA for their valuable help. Only eight out of the thirty-eight manuscripts included in these Proceedings were provided by the authors on camera-ready sheets. We are thankful to Mrs.Mary Helen Kennedy for final typing of five papers and to Mr.M.Mathews, Mr.C.Ramu and Ms. N.N. Shanthakumary for their meticulous typing of all the other manuscripts in these Proceedings. Although we have carefully compared these with the original manuscripts, we regret for any errors that might have crept in. We thank Mr.C.Gangeyamoorthy for tracing the figures and to Mr.C.Ramachandra Rao for the photographic work.