

## PREFACE

The present volume, XIII A, contains the corrected Reports of IAU Commissions, as presented to the XIII General Assembly of the Union, held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, from 22 to 31 August 1967. The volume, entitled "Reports on Astronomy", is an authoritative, detailed, and unique survey of the accomplishments in all branches of astronomy from 1964 to 1967. For technical reasons, the volume also contains the Report of the Executive Committee 1964-1967, which originally was to appear in Volume B.

The page proofs of the present volume, assembled into the Agenda and Draft Reports, had been distributed to the Members of the Union before the General Assembly. Only errors and misprints in the Draft Reports have been corrected in the present volume: additions had to be deferred to volume XIII B in order to speed up publication.

Volume XIII B, subtitled "Proceedings of the Thirteenth General Assembly", will contain: the report of the Inaugural Ceremony and of the sessions of the General Assembly; the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and by Commissions; the proceedings of Commission meetings, and those parts of the Astronomer's Handbook which underwent changes (i.e. representation of the IAU in international scientific bodies; composition of the Executive Committee; Symposia, Colloquia, and Publications of the Union; list of Commissions and of their membership; list of Members of the Union).

A separate volume, not numbered in the series of IAU Transactions, and entitled "Highlights of Astronomy as presented at the Thirteenth General Assembly of the Union 1967" will contain the Invited Discourses, the proceedings of the Joint Discussions, and those of one or two other meetings.

The proceedings of Symposia No. 33—Physics and Dynamics of Meteors, No. 34—Planetary Nebulae, and No. 35—Development of Solar Active Regions, held immediately after the General Assembly, will be published in the Symposium series of the Union.

The present volume is a collective work of forty Presidents of Commissions. The personal style was preserved in preference to an entirely homogenous presentation. The reports were edited by the former General Secretary, Professor Jean-Claude Pecker, during his term of office. The extremely difficult task of subediting the volume was entrusted to the experience, patience, and competence of Miss Geneviève Drouin. All those who assisted in preparing this volume, as well as the printer, Willmer Brothers Limited, and the publisher, D. Reidel Publishing Company, deserve the gratitude and appreciation of the Union and of the readers as well.

*Praha*

4 October 1967

L. PEREK

*General Secretary*