

PART 5

REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, POLAND 1973

OPENING CEREMONY

4 September 1973

The Extraordinary General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union was held in commemoration of the quinqucentenary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus. The Executive Committee of the IAU was represented by its President, Professor L. Goldberg, its General Secretary, Professor G. Contopoulos and one Vice-President, Professor W. Iwanowska. The Opening Ceremony took place in the Congress Hall of the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw, on Tuesday, 4 September 1973, at 10 a.m.

The Program included a Word of Welcome on the part of the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Professor J. Smak, an Address by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, Mr P. Jaroszewicz, an Address by the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor W. Trzebiatowski, an Address by the Chairman of the Warsaw City Council, Mr J. Majewski, an Address by the Chairman of the National Committee for the IAU, Professor W. Iwanowska, and the Address and official opening of the Extraordinary General Assembly by the President of the IAU, Professor L. Goldberg.

After a musical interlude a special lecture was given by Professor O. Gingerich on the 'Astronomy and Cosmology of Copernicus'. This is included in the *Highlights of Astronomy 1973*.

Between 5 and 12 September five IAU Symposia and one joint IUHPS-IAU Symposium took place in Warsaw, Cracow and Toruń, as follows:

Symposium No. 62 = Copernicus Symposium I 'The Stability of the Solar System and of Small Stellar Systems', Warsaw, 5-8 September 1973.

Symposium No. 63 = Copernicus Symposium II 'Confrontation of Cosmological Theories with Observational Data', Cracow, 10-12 September 1973.

Symposium No. 64 = Copernicus Symposium III 'Gravitational Radiation and Gravitational Collapse', Warsaw, 5-8 September 1973.

Symposium No. 65 = Copernicus Symposium IV 'Exploration of the Planetary System', Toruń, 5-8 September 1973.

Symposium No. 66 = Copernicus Symposium V 'Late Stages of Stellar Evolution', Warsaw, 10-12 September 1973.

IUHPS/IAU Symposium = Copernicus Symposium VI 'The Astronomy of Copernicus and its Background', Toruń, 7-8 September 1973.

The Proceedings of the five IAU Symposia will be published as separate Volumes by the IAU, while the Proceedings of the IUHPS-IAU Symposium will be published in 'Studia Copernicana' by the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Three Invited Discourses were given on the topics:

G. B. Field: 'The Physics of the Interstellar Matter' (Warsaw).

V. A. Ambartsumian: 'Galactic Nuclei' (Cracow).

F. J. Low: 'Infrared Astronomy' (Toruń).

These will be also included in the *Highlights of Astronomy 1973*.

The program of the various Symposia was enlivened with several excursions and cultural events. We are all most grateful to our Polish hosts for organizing this very successful Extraordinary General Assembly.

G. CONTOPOULOS
General Secretary