

## PREFACE

The Transactions A of the International Astronomical Union describe the world wide activities and the progress in astronomical research during three year periods. The present volume XXIII A covers the time July 1993 to June 1996. These "Reports on Astronomy" form the only publication in our field which tries to provide a complete critical review of the progress in all branches of astronomy and astrophysics.

In order to achieve such a broad coverage of our science the IAU relies on a large number of colleagues who provide individual contributions. These contributions are organised, compiled and edited by the various IAU Commissions and Divisions and combined to a single volume by the Union's secretariate. Therefore, I would like to use this opportunity to thank each Commission and Division President, the many individual contributors, and the busy staff of the Secretariat for their kind cooperation and hard work, which allowed to complete this book.

I hope that this volume will prove to be a valuable source of information to many colleagues in the field and to scientists from other disciplines who are looking for an overview of the developments in astronomy during the past triennium.

Immo Appenzeller  
General Secretary

November 1995