

Foreword

This year marks the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Indian Academy of Sciences in April, 1934 by Professor C. V. Raman with the objective of promoting the progress and upholding the cause of science. Amongst the many activities undertaken by the Academy towards the achievement of its goals, publications have taken pride of place since the inception of the Academy and continue to do so. In addition to its Proceedings which have appeared without interruption since July, 1934, the Academy has published a large number of books, monographs, and in more recent years a number of specialist journals, now totalling eleven. The *Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy*, the youngest of the Academy's journals, made its debut in September 1980 with an international Editorial Board whose Chairman was Professor M. K. Vainu Bappu. After his death in late 1982, we have attempted to maintain the high standards set by him for the journal and have also enlarged the Editorial Board.

To celebrate the completion of fifty years of scientific publishing by the Academy, all its journals are bringing out special issues. This is the first special issue of the *Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy* containing specially invited articles from astronomers and astrophysicists of international repute. The next will appear in June, 1984. As shown by the papers in this issue, the Journal is open to the expression of views that are not always conventional. We believe with Zwicky that scientific "progress [lies in] the removal of prejudices and of absolute doctrines". The invited articles that follow also indicate well the wide range of topics the Journal intends to cover. On behalf of the Editorial Board, and the Academy, I would like to express our thanks to all the distinguished authors who responded so willingly to the invitation to contribute to these issues.

To mark the occasion, we have further attempted to make a significant improvement in the quality of the Journal. The type and printing have been improved and it appears now with a new cover design. Beginning with this issue the international distribution of the Journal will be handled by a professional agency*, it will also be covered by Current Contents/Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences and the Science Citation Indexes.

Like all the other journals of the Academy, the *Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy* levies no page charges. We shall maintain a strict control over the quality of its contents, ensure that it appears on time, and attempt to further reduce the publication lag. On this occasion, we would like to record our appreciation for the help rendered to the Journal by numerous authors, and a large number of referees from all over the world. We rely on them for their continued support.

V. Radhakrishnan
Chairman, Editorial Board

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