

PART II  
INAUGURAL CEREMONY  
&  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## INAUGURAL CEREMONY

*September 3, 1932*

The Inaugural Ceremony took place in the Longfellow Hall, Radcliffe College, Cambridge, on Saturday, September 3. Prof. Harlow Shapley, Director of the Harvard College Observatory and Chairman of the Local Committee, presided. Addresses of welcome were given by the Hon. Charles Francis Adams, Secretary of the United States Navy, by Dr Bernice V. Brown, Dean of Radcliffe College, and by Prof. Shapley.

*Address by the HON. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS of President Hoover's Cabinet,  
Secretary of the United States Navy*

It is a great pleasure this morning to bring to you greetings from the President of the United States. You are all very welcome here.

We all realize what you have done and are doing for the welfare of mankind. We of the navy, perhaps, realize it more than anyone else because we are concerned with providing tables for the safety of the navy. We cannot reach far into the realm of imagination, if we do not realize that we owe to you to some extent the running of the navy. It might be possible for ships to find their way about in the world; but you can easily imagine difficulties of taking ships into the fog-bound regions if we had to start from this side of the Atlantic, and then to guide our landing on the other side by inquiring from a man catching lobsters. Sometimes it is too rough to catch lobsters, and you can't recognize a patch of land which you can see unless you have something which you, gentlemen, have given. We in the navy need it more than anyone else.

Complications of recent methods of warfare have added tremendously to our difficulties. We are dealing with things under the water, on the surface of the water and in the air. Aye, we must with a new art combine attack, under water, on the surface and in the air. It becomes a beautiful art. Think of the air attack: it must be secret, it must get planes off beyond the site, 50 or 75 miles away from points where the enemies are fighting, and then you must get back to the original ship. There cannot be a more difficult art of navigation than that, and it is on that art that warfare is founded to-day. And you, gentlemen, may hold yourselves responsible for that art of scientific destruction.

Your science is the first of all science which appealed to the savage as his mind developed. It will be, perhaps, the last thing for all of us—the desire to know what all this creation is. In the meantime we need all its applications to the arts and welfare of men. We are profoundly grateful to you.

You are welcome to the United States, and we have every desire to make you happy and to help you feel at home.

*Address by DR BERNICE V. BROWN, Dean of Radcliffe College*

Mr President, members of the International Astronomical Union, I need hardly tell you what a great pleasure it is to welcome you to the College. I am sorry that the President of Radcliffe College cannot be here. She and the Trustees welcome you, however, to Radcliffe College.

We are used to welcoming students to the College who come here looking at the world through rose-coloured glasses, but this is the first time we have had visitors with smoked glasses. We hope that the arrangements made by the committees will run smoothly. We want you to be comfortable and beg you to tell us if there is any way to help you.

We are sorry the students are not here. We hope many of you can visit us during the term when the girls have returned.

The Harvard Observatory has not only been ready and willing to give instruction to the Radcliffe girls, but they have fostered a long line of graduate students. We are delighted to show hospitality to their colleagues.

*Address by PROF. HARLOW SHAPLEY, Director of the Harvard College Observatory*

On behalf of the Staff of the Harvard Observatory, we welcome you to the Harvard Observatory. Throughout this next week we are all your servants. Throughout this next week our United States are your United States, Radcliffe College is your College, and Harvard Observatory is your Observatory.

I turn over the chair of the General Assembly to President Sir Frank Dyson.

*Address by SIR FRANK DYSON, Astronomer Royal of Great Britain,  
President of the Union*

Dr Shapley, Mr Adams, Dean Brown, we thank you for your kind welcome to the United States, to Radcliffe College and to the Harvard Observatory.

We are delighted that such a distinguished public servant, a man of a well-known family, has welcomed us here to-day. As you have said, some of us are from Observatories which supply data for navigation. But in addition, Sir, may I ask you if astronomers had not discovered that the Earth was round, where on Earth would the United States of America be!

Dean Brown, we thank you for Radcliffe hospitality. It is very pleasant and comfortable to be housed together in the dormitories so that we are constantly meeting one another. Radcliffe certainly appeals to us. We know what you have done in astronomy and we can infer what you have done in other sciences. We wish every success to you in the future.

Prof. Shapley, some few of us have had the pleasure of coming to Harvard Observatory before. In 1910 on the way to the Solar Union at Mount Wilson we saw the many activities in which Prof. Pickering was engaged. We are all delighted to come again. We are glad to see the pleasant face of Miss Cannon once more. We are all delighted to see the Harvard Observatory and all the activities in which you are engaged, especially your researches on the Milky Way.

Our first meeting was at Rome, then at Cambridge in England, and then at Leiden. Now we come naturally to New England. We very gratefully accept the hospitality which you have accorded to us. We believe, as the Secretary of the Navy has said, that astronomy is very important for navigation and for the world. In astronomy, as in science generally, we are building on the work of our predecessors; and one never knows what will be discovered, perhaps something quite unexpected. Nothing has appealed to the popular imagination more than the Einstein discovery of relativity. There is much to learn, possibly something to correct. It is our business to follow Herschel's maxim—"Whatever shines must be observed."

On behalf of the International Astronomical Union I wish to thank you, Mr Secretary, Dean Brown, and Dr Shapley for the kind welcome you have given to us.