ASPECTS OF QUANTUM THEORY
An early portrait of P. A. M. Dirac

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Aspects of Quantum Theory

Edited by
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and
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Dedicated to

P. A. M. Dirac

to commemorate his seventieth birthday and his contributions to quantum mechanics
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An early portrait of P. A. M. Dirac frontispiece
Dirac at a recent Solvay Conference facing page 7
Preface

On the 8 August 1972 Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac will be seventy. To celebrate this occasion, some of his pupils and admirers have prepared this volume of essays. Dirac is one of the chief creators of quantum mechanics. By concentrating on just those areas of quantum theory with which he is primarily associated, we have in fact been able to range over almost all its aspects.

Posterity will rate Dirac as one of the greatest physicists of all time. The present generation values him as one of its great teachers – teaching both through his lucid lectures as well as through his book *The Principles of Quantum Mechanics*. This exhibits a clarity and a spirit similar to those of the *Principia* written by a predecessor of his in the Lucasian Chair in Cambridge. On those privileged to know him, Dirac has left his mark, not only by his observations (which he makes rarely but which are always incisive), but even more by his human greatness. He is modest, affectionate, and sets the highest possible standards of personal and scientific integrity. He is a legend in his own lifetime and rightly so.

On behalf of all those who have contributed, we offer Dirac this volume as a token of our affection and gratitude.

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(Compiled by Jagdish Mehra)