## **Contents**

Preface xi
Acknowledgments xv
The Names "ASCC" and "Mark I" xix
1
Introduction to a Pioneer 1
2
Early Life and Education 9
3
A Harvard Graduate Student 21
4
First Steps Toward a New Type of Calculating Machine 33
5
An Unsuccessful Attempt to Get the Machine Built 39
6
Seeking Support from IBM 45
7
The Proposal for an Automatic Calculating Machine 53
The Proposal for an Automatic Calculating Machine

8 Aiken's Background in Computing and Knowledge of Babbage's Machines 61
9 Planning and Beginning the Construction of the Machine 73
10 How to Perform Multiplication and Division by Machine 87
11 Construction of the Machine 95
12 Installing the ASCC/Mark I in Cambridge and Transferring It to the Navy 109
13 Aiken at the Naval Mine Warfare School 115
14 The Dedication 121
15 The Aftermath 131
16 Some Features of Mark I 147
17 Programming and Staffing, Wartime Operation, and the Implosion Computations 159
18 The Mystery of the Number 23 169

ix

19	)
Ta	bles of Bessel Functions 177
20	)
Aik	hen's Harvard Program in Computer Science 185
21	1
La	ter Relations between Aiken and IBM 197
<b>2</b> 2	
	ken at Harvard, 1945–1961 201
23	<b>.</b>
	e in the Comp Lab 215
24	,
	tirement from Harvard 227
25	•
	sinessman and Consultant 231
0.4	-
26 A S	o Summing Up 237
$Ap_{i}$	pendixes
A	The Harvard News Release 249
B	Aiken's Talk at the Dedication 253
C	Aiken's Memorandum Describing the Harvard Computation Laboratory 263
D	The Stored Program and the Binary Number System 269
E	Aiken's Three Later Machines 275
F	How Many Computers Are Needed? 283
G	The NSF Computer Tree 295

## x Contents

H	Who Invented the Computer? Was Mark I a Computer?	297
I	The Harvard Computation Laboratory during the 1950s	305

Sources 309 Index 325