the links between astronomers internationally and to the promotion of international co-operation in astronomical research. That co-operation is no less important in our own time than it was at any earlier time in the Union's history.

Period	GA	GS	C	M	P	Location of GA
1919-22	I	1-A.Fowler(UK)	27	207	83	Rome
1922-25	II	A.Fowler	27	244	189	Cambridge (UK)
1925-28	III	2-F.J.M.Stratton(UK)	27	288	261	Leiden*
1928-32	IV	F.J.M.Stratton	30	406	203	Cambridge (USA)
1932-35	V	F.J.M.Stratton	31	496	317	Paris
1935-38	VI	3-J.H.Oort(N)	32	554	293	Stockholm
1938-48	VII	J.H.Oort	39	611	279	Zürich
1948-52	VIII	4-B.Stromgren(D)	39	809	434	Rome
1952-55	IX	5-P.T.Oosterhoff(N)	38	888	597	Dublin
1955-58	X	P.T.Oosterhoff	36	1127	820	Moscow
1958-61	XI	6-D.H.Sadler(UK)	36	1289	765	Berkeley
1961-64	XII	D.H.Sadler	38	1630	1160	Hamburg
1964-67	XIII	7-J.-C.Pecker(F)	38	2009	1835	Prague*
1967-70	XIV	8-L.Perek(Cz)	39	2590	2255	Brighton**
1970-73	XV	9-C.de Jager(N)	40	3188	840	Sydney
1973-76	XVI	10-G.Contopoulos(G)	40	3805	2135	Grenoble
1976-79	XVII	11-E.A.Müller(S)	39	4504	1965	Montréal
1979-82	XVIII	12-P.A.Wayman(I)	40	5200	1700	Patras
1982-85	XIX	13-R.M.West(D)	40	6025	1400	Delhi
1985-88	XX	14-J.-P.Swing(B)	40	6711	1900	Baltimore
1988-91	XXI	15-D.McNally(UK)	40	7301	1400	Buenos Aires
1991-94	XXII	16-J.Bergeron(F)	40	7876	2000	Den Hague
1994-97	XXIII	17-I.Appenzeller(G)	39			Kyoto

" For the period of the Second World War Oort transferred the power of Attorney with respect to the IAU affairs to W.S. Adam.
* 91% greatest participation rate as a percentage of membership
** Greatest participation at any GA
C : number of Commissions ; M : membership of Union ; P : participants attending the GA
Source of data : IAU/IB n° 57, 1986 ; IAU Transactions B, 1989,1992.

FIFTY YEARS REMEMBRANCE OF ASTROPHYSICS WITHIN THE IAU

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Scientists, in particular researchers, are often faced with findings by their discoveries or interpretations which provoke intense excitement as they throw light on problems which have worried the scientist. A great many such instances have crossed my astronomical wake during the past fifty odd years. I would like to recall one such case particularly exciting to me. In the November 1944 issue of the Astrophysical Journal, Baade had a lengthy article where he announced the results of his painstaking observations. Why has Baade work made such an impact on me personaly ? Briefly because it provided a physical

basis and a strong observational support to the scheme of Lindblad which has been an epoch-making conjecture.

Meanwhile, a further important property of stellar motions was being pursued. This was the so-called asymetry of stellar motions. Astronomers at the time were groping around to explain ellispoidal distribution and the asymetry of motions. The phenomenon of asymetry was explained in a simple and elegant manner by Lindblad through the rotation of the subsystems in the Galaxy. One should also recall the outstanding work of Oort, deriving his famous differential rotation formulae providing thus a further confirmation of the rotation of the Galaxy.

An astronomer's life is rich in surprises. Excitement and emotion arrive with an important new discovery, provided the astronomer has overhall maturity and up-to-date information to see the relevance of the finding within the framework of the known Universe.

Discussion

D. DeVorkin : The original intent of the Solar Union was *not* to give formal papers but to conduct business and interact.

P. Pismis : Yes, and now it is the other way around.

The posters included in Astronomy Posters Abstracts are only given by title : ***N.Donich - A Tragic Destiny of an IAU Pionneer*** (M.Stavinschi, Bucharest Observatory, Roumania). ***Outstanding Russian Astronomers B.V.Numerov and M.S.Zverev*** (D.D.Polojentsev, Pulkovo Observatory, Russia). ***The History of the International Latitude Service*** (M.Meinig, Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Potsdam, Germany). ***A.Orlov's and E.Fedorov's Contributions to the Soviet Latitude Service and the Connections of this Service with the ILS, BIH, IPMS*** (A.Korsun, Main Astronomical Observatory, Kiev, Unkrainia)

WORK IN PROGRESS

THE BACKGROUND AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE GENERAL HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY

Owen Gingerich, *Center for Astrophyics, Cambridge, USA*

The idea of a General History of Astronomy was conceived by P.G. Kulikovsky, the first president of IAU Commission 41, and very much supported by Eugenieuz Rybka, the second Commission president. At an editorial board meeting held in Cracow in 1972 (under the joint sponsorship of the IAU and the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science) the general scope of the project was delineated, and subsequently