

38. EXCHANGE OF ASTRONOMERS (ÉCHANGE DES ASTRONOMES)

(Committee of the Executive Committee)

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During the period 1 January 1976 to 31 December 1978 the Commission awarded grants to the following eighteen astronomers to enable them to visit institutions in other countries.

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| A.I. Gamaleldin | Helwan, Egypt, to Asiago, Italy. |
| S.L.T. Sivertsen | Tromsø, Norway, to Austin, Texas, U.S.A. |
| V.K. Kapahi | Tata, Bombay, India, to Dwingeloo, Netherlands. |
| I.F. Mirabel | Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Jodrell Bank, U.K. |
| M. Mould | Mt. Stromlo, Australia, to Herstmonceux, U.K. |
| A.P. Rao | Tata, Bombay, India, to Maryland, U.S.A. |
| P. Grosbøl | Copenhagen, Denmark, to MIT, Cambridge, U.S.A. |
| J. Rahe | Bamberg, Germany F.R., to Observatory, S. Africa. |
| M.L. Malagnini | Trieste, Italy, to New Haven, Conn., U.S.A. |
| J.V. Narlikar | Tata, Bombay, India, to Austin, Texas, U.S.A. |
| C. Chiuderi | Arcetri, Italy, to U.C. Irvine, California, U.S.A. |
| S. Ananthakrishnan | Tata, Bombay, India, to U.C. San Diego, U.S.A. |
| J.L. Scott | Christchurch, New Zealand, to Sussex, U.K. |
| S. Kato | Kyoto, Japan, to Cambridge, U.K. |
| B. Hidajat | Lembang, Indonesia, to Heidelberg, Germany F.R. |
| S. McKenna-Lawlor | Maynooth, Ireland, to CSIRO, Sydney, Australia. |
| S. Blacher | Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Llege, Belgium. |
| A. Soltan | Warsaw, Poland, to Cambridge, U.S.A. (partial). |

There were 30 additional applications which did not result in grants. The number of applications and the number of grants awarded in this period do not differ significantly from the corresponding figures for the preceding triennium. Such numbers appear to be substantially smaller than in the sixties, however.

The 18 travel grants were made to 13 different countries, a gratifyingly varied distribution. Included were Norway, Egypt and Ireland, where grants have not been made for over a decade, if ever. Again in contrast to the sixties, relatively fewer travel grants are now being made to astronomers residing in the countries where our science could be said to be flourishing.

As has been the case for very many years, almost all awards are for intercontinental travel. The IAU appears to be one of the few organizations making long-distance journeys of this sort possible. A total of 312 travel grants have been made by Commission 38 since it began operation in 1947.

The basic aims of the Exchange of Astronomers Program, as drawn up afresh at the Grenoble General Assembly and approved by the Executive Committee, are "to award grants to qualified individuals to enable them to visit Institutions abroad in order to work on problems which they could not pursue advantageously in their own countries. It is intended, in particular, that the visitors should have ample time and opportunity to interact with the intellectual life of the Host Institution so that benefit is derived on both sides. It is a specific objective of the program that astronomy in the home country be enriched after the applicant returns." The application procedure, minimum requirements for qualification, and the guidelines under which the Commission operates are to be found in *IAU Information Bulletin* No. 39, pp. 19-22, January 1978, and *Transactions*, XVIB, pp. 259-261.

It has often been necessary to emphasize that applicants must generally be committed to return to their home institutions, that grants are not made for trips for the sole purpose of obtaining or reducing observational data, and that travel to conferences is outside the scope of the Commission's program. A stay of 3 months or more at a single institution is also a requirement.

Although grants until now have been made for travel only, one of the newly adopted guidelines permits equivalent funds sometimes to be used for living expenses. This change was adopted because travel funds may be available from sources in the home country whereas subsistence support in the host country may be unavailable or insufficient. The Commission's program has benefitted from this change in policy.

The continued concern of the Executive Committee for Commission 38's program is a source of encouragement, and the assistance provided by the IAU Secretariat is gratefully acknowledged.

DONALD A. MacRAE
President of the Commission