

38. COMMISSION POUR L'ÉCHANGE DES ASTRONOMES

Report of Meeting, 24 August 1967

PRESIDENT: M. Minnaert.

SECRETARY: F. B. Wood.

Professor P. Swings, President of the IAU., expressed the gratitude of the Executive Committee to commission 38 and promised as much financial help as was possible despite the present financial difficulties of the Union.

Professor Minnaert expressed thanks and stated that any monies granted the commission would be very carefully expended. He then presented a financial report of the activities of the commission in the past three years. During this interval, a total of 53 requests had been granted; in past years, out of approximately 100 grants, only two could have been called unsuccessful. Some of the administrative details were described; one of the great advantages was in being able to make decisions and payments rapidly without undue formalities.

A discussion of the draft report then followed. Professor B. J. Bok raised the question of giving names of recipients of aid in the draft and final reports on the grounds that these were honors similar to fellowships. This was seconded by Professor F. B. Wood and a motion by Bok to give names of recipients in the future passed without dissenting vote. A list of those who received grants in the past will be mimeographed and sent to the members of the commission.

Dr M. V. Migeotte then gave the report of the sub-commission created at the 12th General Assembly to aid travel of students desiring to specialize in astronomy but finding no facilities in their own countries. Details are given in the Draft Report (pp. lxxxv–lxxxvi). Dr Migeotte felt the sub-commission should be kept in existence even if it handled only one or two cases each year. The report of the sub-committee was accepted with thanks.

The next item was the composition of Commission 38 for the next three years. The Executive Committee of the union had nominated Professor Minnaert as president. As vice-president, in place of Dr Migeotte who resigned in order to take the presidency of another commission, it had named Professor A. Reiz.

After some discussion, D. Ya. Martynov, P. M. Routly, J. Sahade, J. P. Wild, were recommended to the Executive Committee for membership of the new organizing committee. Some changes in the membership of the commission will also be proposed.

Professor Minnaert then presented the following resolution for presentation to the executive committee:

'The members of Commission 38 and other members of the Union present at the August 24 session of this commission stress the importance of the program of Commission 38 and recommend that great efforts should be made in order to ensure the continuation of its activities and to avoid interruption of its work.

During the next three years a minimum subsidy of \$8000 will be necessary for this purpose. Smooth development of these activities requires a certain reserve, which should be transferred each year to the next year.

New efforts should be made to obtain an increased additional subsidy (from UNESCO).'

This motion was carried.

A prolonged discussion followed on the possibility of sending either distinguished senior astronomers or younger but well-trained astronomers on visits to countries less advanced in astronomical training. Dr Bappu noted two situations exist. One was countries with no astronomical facilities where matters must be handled first at a local level before such visits would be profitable. The second was countries where observatories with specialized facilities already exist, which could profit greatly by a program of foreign visitors. After many suggestions, the committee agreed that while the details could not be settled, an international program of visiting professors would be of

considerable importance and requested that the president prepare a letter to be sent to possible sources of funding.

Finally, *Bok* requested that minutes be prepared, mimeographed, and distributed to members of the Executive Committee and presidents and vice-presidents of all commissions.