

38. COMMISSION POUR L'ÉCHANGE DES ASTRONOMES

PRÉSIDENT: M. F. J. M. Stratton, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, England.

MEMBRES: MM. Bowen, Chang, Danjon, Minnaert, Nassau, Pearce, Platzeck, Rosseland, Shajn †, Stoy, Strömgren, Struve, Swings, Unsöld, Witkowski, Woolley, Director of the Observatory of La Plata.

The present report carries on details from the report presented to the Union at the Rome meeting in 1952 (*Trans. I.A.U.* 8, 601-4). Up to the end of 1954 the following additional astronomers received grants from the commission:

34. A British astronomer to the Pic du Midi, France.
35. A British astronomer to Leiden, Netherlands.
36. A Greek astronomer to the Pic du Midi, France.
37. A Belgian astronomer to Oslo, Norway.
38. An Indian astronomer to Berkeley, California, U.S.A.
39. A Belgian astronomer to Asiago, Italy.

In all cases the astronomer was vouched for at the university or observatory from which he or she came and was accepted very willingly by the director of the observatory visited. The programme of work to be carried out was reported in advance and subsequent reports and publications showed that useful work was carried out to the satisfaction of the authorities concerned. In most cases funds for the visit were met partly from local sources; the grant from the Union was used as a supplement to make the visit possible or for maintenance during the visit. In two cases mentioned in the 1952 report supplementary grants were made on the request of the observatory director concerned to enable a student to stay longer and complete a piece of work.

The following short list will indicate the wide range of subjects investigated:

Photometry and spectrography of variable stars with instruments of high dispersion and good light-gathering power.

Work on radial oscillations of variable stars.

Work on and with a solar spectrograph in preparation for a later development at home.

Work with monochromatic filters on the chromosphere near spot areas and on solar granulation.

Preparation at a high altitude station for eclipse observation of the corona by interferometric studies.

Planetary polarimetry at a close opposition of Mars.

Work with a modern calculating machine on asteroid orbit integrations.

A study of physical processes in interstellar matter, such as the acceleration of interstellar clouds by O and B stars.

In some cases the object of the visit was to work under an expert in some special branch of astronomy. In other cases the need was better instrumental facilities than were available in the student's home country.

There has been a definite fall in the number of applications received by the commission for grants. The President circulated members of the commission on this point. The replies pointed out that probably there were more sources available now for funds for travel than formerly. There did not seem from other evidence any decrease in the number of astronomers visiting observatories in foreign countries and working there, but on the whole an increase. One suggestion made by a member of the commission was that help might be given to enable young astronomers to attend international colloquia at which they wished to read a paper. It would be useful to discuss this suggestion at the meeting in Dublin and to see, from the point of view of those organizing such colloquia, what form an extension of the work of the commission in this sense might most usefully take.

In their report to the Union at Rome the commission asked for an annual grant of \$2000, but the commission at their meeting in Rome amended this by resolution to \$4000 a year; this amended grant was approved by the General Assembly. Actually the sum expended in grants since the beginning of 1952 to the end of 1954 amounts to \$7500. There are further applications pending; also the Executive Committee has authorized certain payments from the commission to assist younger astronomers to attend the next meeting of the Union in Dublin. In view of this the commission will be asked in Dublin to support a motion for the annual grant for the years 1956, 1957 and 1958 to be fixed at \$2500.

F. J. M. STRATTON
President of the Commission

Report of the meeting. 30 August 1955

PRESIDENT: Prof. F. J. M. Stratton.

SECRETARY: Prof. B. J. Bok.

The President reported that, as a result, perhaps, of the references in the Draft Report of the Commission to a falling off in the number of applications received, there had followed in 1955 a definite increase in the number of applications.

Grants had now been made to eight additional astronomers:

40. A Belgian astronomer to the Vatican Observatory.
41. An Italian astronomer to Liège.
42. A French astronomer to Groningen and Leiden.
43. An Argentinian astronomer to Mount Wilson and Lick Observatories.
44. An astronomer in Australia to the Lick Observatory.
45. A Japanese astronomer to Yerkes Observatory.
46. A Danish astronomer to Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories and to the Lick Observatory.
47. A Yugoslavian astronomer to Great Britain.

Four more applications have been received for 1955 or 1956.

In addition, as notified in the Draft Report, a sum of 4000 dollars was, on the authority of the Executive Committee, granted to meet the travelling expenses of young astronomers attending the General Assembly of the Union in Dublin.

The supplementary report was adopted.

It was reported by Frank K. Edmondson that part of the income of a small endowment of the Goethe Link Observatory has been used since the Rome meeting to bring two young foreign astronomers to work at the Indiana University as research assistants. This policy will continue.

A similar policy has been in operation for the last ten years at the Warner and Swasey Observatory of the Case Institute of Technology. Since the Rome meeting Dr Jurgen Stock of the Hamburg Observatory was in residence in Cleveland for two years.

During the discussion it was suggested that it would be appropriate for astronomers of considerable experience to visit astronomical centres which are not at present very active.

Samaha called attention to the fact that the Helwan Observatory anticipates that its 74-inch telescope with a Cassegrain and Coudé spectrograph will be ready for operation within one or two years. He therefore wishes to invite research workers to avail themselves of the opportunity of using this instrument and the favourable Egyptian climate to collect data for their own research. The observatory will be able to offer at present free lodging and he hopes to induce the authorities to raise funds to assist astronomers who wish to come to Egypt for that purpose.

The following resolution was passed and presented to the Executive Committee:

That the yearly allowance for this Commission be continued at 4000 dollars.

The request was granted.