

6. COMMISSION DES TELEGRAMMES ASTRONOMIQUES

PRÉSIDENT: Sir H. SPENCER JONES, *Astronomer Royal, Royal Greenwich Observatory, Herstmonceux Castle, Hailsham, Sussex, England*

DIRECTRICE DU BUREAU: M^{lle} VINTER HANSEN.

MEMBRES: MM. B. H. Dawson, Mikhailov, Shapley, van den Bos.

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BUREAU FOR ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS

The Bureau suffered a sad loss, through the death on April 5, 1947, of its director Prof. Elis Strömngren who had conducted its work with never failing enthusiasm and with great efficiency since 1922. In June 1947 the supervision of the Bureau was entrusted to the writer. The following report may not be altogether complete owing to my absence, for 6 years, in the U.S.A., when I was out of touch with the activities of the Bureau. The last report by Prof. E. Strömngren was dated February 26, 1938; for the rest of the year very few data have been found, hence my report will cover the period January 1, 1939 to December 1, 1947.

The leading principle of the Bureau has been to procure provisional data for the continuous observation of new objects. The news, if urgent, is transmitted by telegrams, in all other cases through printed circulars, in order to make the services of the Bureau as cheap as possible to our subscribers. A few subscribers have expressed the desire to have all information transmitted to them by telegraphic service, and such an arrangement, costly to the recipients, can be made with any subscriber who desires it.

The work of the Bureau was greatly hampered by the war, but through the persevering initiative of Prof. Strömngren it was possible to keep up the service, even after the invasion of Denmark, on April 9, 1940, by the German armed forces. From October 1941 the Observatory at Lund in neutral Sweden acted as a branch-Bureau. In a few cases the Bureau could not get in touch even with Lund, but succeeded in having the telegrams transmitted via Zürich.

The financial status of the Bureau was often rather precarious on account of the impossibility of collecting the annual dues from many subscribers; but some Danish foundations, particularly the Rask-Ørsted foundation, came to the assistance of the Bureau, supplying loans and annual grants. Unfortunately, the international money exchange is as yet not in order, and some subscribers are still much in arrear as regards payments, which prevents the Bureau from repaying the above-mentioned debts incurred during the war.

Prof. B. Strömngren and the staff of the Copenhagen Observatory, particularly the late Mr J. P. Möller, Mr Thernöe and Miss E. Mackeprang have assisted effectively in the work of the Bureau together with some young Danish astronomers of whom Messrs Lorensen, Hesselberg and Naur may be mentioned.

Below is given a list of the telegrams received and transmitted to our subscribers as also of the circulars printed:

Year	Telegrams		Circulars printed
	Received	Sent	
1939	52	345	72 (Nos. 735-806)
1940	8	33	33 (Nos. 807-839)
1941	39	117	55 (Nos. 840-894)
1942	41	181	37 (Nos. 895-931)
1943	23	140	45 (Nos. 932-976)
1944	14	30	21 (Nos. 977-997)
1945	15	123	27 (Nos. 998-1024)
1946	33	207	51 (Nos. 1025-1075)
1947 (to Dec. 1)	28	306	43 (Nos. 1076-1118)
	253	1482	384

It is interesting to note that the above figures of telegrams received and sent show in a marked degree the development of the war and of the severities of the German occupation of Denmark, which reached their peak in 1943-44.

The following list gives the names of institutions and astronomers subscribing to the telegrams and circulars. A bracket has been placed around those with whom it has been impossible to establish any connection.

ACTUAL LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO TELEGRAMS AND CIRCULARS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. | Royal Astronomical Society, London, England. |
| Union Observatory, Johannesburg, South Africa. | Osservatorio Monte Mario, Roma, Italy. |
| Commonwealth Observatory, Canberra, Australia. | Observatoire, Athènes, Greece. |
| Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, Scotland. | Osservatorio Astronomico, Trieste. |
| Royal Greenwich Observatory, Herstmonceux, England. | Observatory, Poznań, Poland. |
| Norman Lockyer Observatory, Sidmouth, England. | Observatory, Uppsala, Sweden. |
| Isidro Polit, Observatorio Fabra, Barcelona, Spain. | Astronomitscheskij Institut, Sternberga, Moscow, Russia. |
| Observatorio astronomico, Madrid, Spain. | Observatoire, Beograd, Yugoslavia. |
| Observatorio Marina, San Fernando, Spain. | Specola Vaticana, Roma, Italy. |
| Observatoire, Floirac-Bordeaux, France. | Observatorio, Coimbra, Portugal. |
| Observatoire, Marseille, France. | Observatory, Lund, Sweden. |
| Observatoire, Nice, France. | Y. Väisälä, Observatory, Turku, Finland. |
| Observatoire National, Paris, France. | Observatorio Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. |
| Observatoire, Strasbourg, France. | Institut Astronomicque, Sofia, Bulgaria. |
| Observatoire, Alger, North Africa. | Ole Römer-Observatoriet, Aarhus, Denmark. |
| Sterrewacht, Leiden, Holland. | Institut d'Astrophysique, Paris, France. |
| Osservatorio Capodimonte, Napoli, Italy. | Observatoire de Haute Provence, Saint-Michel l'Observatoire, France. |
| Osservatorio, Milano, Italy. | L. E. Cunningham, Students' Observatory, Berkeley, Calif., U.S.A. |
| Osservatorio, Padova, Italy. | Astronomisches Institut, Bern, Switzerland. |
| Osservatorio, Pinotorinese, Italy. | The University of London Observatory, London, England. |
| Observatoire, Bucarest, Roumania. | Osservatorio, Bologna, Italy. |
| Observatoriet, Saltsjöbaden-Stockholm, Sweden. | Štátne Observatórium, Skalnaté Pleso, Czechoslovakia. |
| Observatoire, Genève, Switzerland. | University Observatory, Oxford, England. |
| Observatory, Helwán, Egypt. | Observatorium Warszawa, p.t. Cracow, Poland. |
| Observatoire, Uccle, Belgium. | Sternwarte der Thurgauischen Kantonschule, Frauenfeld, Switzerland. |
| (Observatory, Tokyo, Japan). | |
| Observatoire d'Astronomie physique, Meudon, France. | |

ACTUAL LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO CIRCULARS ONLY

- Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics, Blindern (Oslo), Norway.
- Observatoire Astronomique, Jassy, Roumania.
- National Observatory of the Czechoslovak Republic, Ondřejov, Czechoslovakia.
- Lick Observatory, Mt Hamilton, Calif., U.S.A.
- Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wis., U.S.A.
- Mt Wilson Observatory, Pasadena, Calif., U.S.A.
- U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Students' Observatory, Berkeley, Calif., U.S.A.
- Astronomical Observatory, Cracow, Poland.
- Observatoire, Lyon, St Genis Laval, France.
- (Issei Yamamoto, Sigaken, Japan).

Société astronomique tchèque, Observatoire Stefanik, Prague-Petřín, Czechoslovakia.
 Carter Observatory, Wellington, W. I., New Zealand.
 Brown University Library, Providence, R.I., U.S.A.
 Observatoire de Juvisy, Seine et Oise, France.
 Astronomical Institute, University, Lwów, Russia.
 Astronomical Observatory, Taschkent, Russia.
 Sterrewacht, Lembang, Java.
 Observatory of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.
 J. F. Cox, Laboratoire d'Astronomie de l'Université, Bruxelles, Belgium.
 Observatoire de Toulouse, Toulouse, France.
 Institut d'Astrophysique de l'Université de Liège, Cointe-Sclessin, Belgium.
 Oswald Thomas, Wien III, Austria.
 H.M. Nautical Almanac Office, Bath, Somerset, England.
 Hans Q. Rasmusen, Vørslev, Denmark.
 Solar Physics Observatory, Cambridge, England.
 G. F. Kellaway, Yeovil, England.
 Nizamiah Observatory, Hyderabad-Deccan, India.
 Glavnaja Astronomiceskaja Observatorija, Pulkovo, near Leningrad, Russia.
 E. M. Lindsay, Armagh Observatory, Northern Ireland.
 The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh, Edinburgh 9, Scotland.
 Nils Tamm, Bro, Uppsala län, Sweden.
 Royal Observatory, Capetown, South Africa.
 Astrophysikal. Observatorium, Potsdam, Germany.
 Astronomiceskaja Observatorija, Engelgardta, Kazan, Russia.
 Hamburger Sternwarte, Bergedorf, Germany.
 Universitäts-Sternwarte, Babelsberg 2, Germany.
 Sternwarte, Wien XIII, Austria.
 Sternwarte, Sonneberg, Thüringen, Germany.
 (Joe Ueta, Kyoto, Japan).
 Observatoire, Besançon, France.
 Astronomisches Institut der Universität, Würzburg, Germany.
 R. Rigollet, Paris 16, France.
 J. Peridier, Observatoire Le Houga, Les Arouettes, Gers, France.
 Observatorio Astronómico, Córdoba, Argentina.
 Case School of Applied Science, Warner and Swasey Observatory, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.
 Biblioteka Akademii Nauk, Leningrad, Russia.
 (Nankodo Kyoto Branch, Kyoto City, Japan).
 C. Luplau Janssen, Copenhagen, Denmark.
 R. Henseling, Berlin-Frohnau, Germany.
 Observatory, Helsingfors, Finland.
 Eidgenössische Sternwarte, Zürich, Switzerland.
 Observatoire Astrophysique privée, Josefov, Czechoslovakia.
 McDonald Observatory, Fort Davis, Texas, U.S.A.
 B. Polesný, Astronomical Society, Čes. Budějovice, Czechoslovakia.
 Astronomical Institute, Karlovy University, Prague XVI, Czechoslovakia.
 University of California at Los Angeles, Library, Los Angeles 24, Calif., U.S.A.
 Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, U.S.A.
 Astronomical Institute of the Masaryk University, Brno, Czechoslovakia.
 Astronomical Observatory of Wroclaw University, Wroclaw, Poland.
 Robert A. Naef, Zürich 38, Switzerland.
 Knizhnij Otdel, Akademii Nauk SSSR, Moskva 34, Russia.
 Glavnoe Upravlenie, Geodesii i Kartografii, Moskva, Russia.
 Institut d'Astronomie Pratique de l'Ecole Polytechnique de Varsovie, Warszawa, Poland.

JULIE M. VINTER HANSEN
Director of the Bureau

Dec. 1, 1947

Report of meeting, Thursday, August 12, 1948. 10.30 a.m.

PRESIDENT: Sir HAROLD SPENCER JONES.

SECRETARY: Miss J. M. VINTER HANSEN.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Dr Harlow Shapley, Miss Vinter Hansen.

The president expressed his regret at the sad death of Prof. Elis Strömngren, who for 25 years, including the difficult war years, had conducted the affairs of the Telegram Bureau in the most satisfactory way.

Miss Vinter Hansen, the present director of the Bureau, asked for the usual annual grant of 1200 gold frs., and the Commission agreed to send the following recommendation to the Executive Committee:

'The Commission recommends that an annual grant of 1200 gold francs be given to the Bureau of Astronomical Telegrams.'

Miss Vinter Hansen further mentioned that since the printing of her report in the Draft Report, the list of subscribers to telegrams and circulars had been augmented by five institutions, and the list of subscribers to circulars only, by seven. As a whole the payments to the Bureau from the subscribers had occurred fairly satisfactorily, although a few subscribers were still badly in debt. A couple of subscribers had died leaving small amounts of debt to the Bureau, and she asked permission to place these amounts under General Expenses. This permission was granted.

A proposal by Dr H. M. Jeffers, of the Lick Observatory, to make a minor change in the code for astronomical telegrams was discussed and the following resolution was adopted:

'The Commission recommends that the following modifications be made to the code of astronomical telegrams as approved on p. 477 (or 483) of the *Trans. I.A.U.*, 6, 1938: first, name of discoverer; second, nature of object; third, name of observer; fourth, the accepted sequence of the position message followed by remarks, if any; fifth, the name or names of the communicators.

'It is left to the discretion of the Telegram Bureau whether the site of the observatory where the observation has taken place should be communicated, and whether all the names of the intermediary communicators should be transmitted.'

It was decided that this minor change of code did not necessitate the reprinting of the whole code, but that the change, if accepted by the General Assembly, should be communicated to the subscribers through a notice on the I.A.U. circulars.

A proposal by Dr G. Merton, Oxford, that in the telegraphic transmission of ephemerides the figures giving the 'light' of the object should be substituted by figures giving the supposed magnitude of the object was referred to Commission 20.