

## 5. COMMISSION DES ANALYSES DE TRAVAUX ET DE BIBLIOGRAPHIE

PRÉSIDENT: M. K. LUNDMARK, *Director of the Observatory, Lund, Sweden.*

SECRÉTAIRE: M. COLLINDER.

MEMBRES: MM. P. Bourgeois, Brasch, J. Chatelu, de la Baume Pluvinel, de Vos van Steenwijk, Dittrich, Emanuelli, Gabba, E. Gastardi, Grouiller, Neubauer, Neugebauer, Nordenmark, Pogo, Selga, Shinjo, Yashnov.

### I. EDITION OF ANCIENT OBSERVATIONS AND TRANSLATIONS OF CLASSICAL WORKS OF ASTRONOMY

At the Paris congress in 1935, Messrs Dittrich, Brasch and Pogo had proposed that Commission 5 should undertake the publication of classical works of astronomy (such as Ptolemy's *Almagest*, the works of Copernicus, etc.) which were untranslated or for other reasons difficult of access. The commission decided to form a sub-commission, consisting of Mr Stroobant and the gentlemen named above, to study this question, especially the means for its realization. Mr Stroobant had announced his desire to take this work in hand personally. Prof. Stroobant, however, having deceased in July 1936, and his health having been deficient during several months in advance, the sub-commission has not been able to continue its work. This is a question that ought to be taken up at the Stockholm meeting.

### 2. PERIODICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

At the Paris meeting in 1935, the commission recommended to the General Assembly that a subvention of £100 be given to the *Bibliographie mensuelle de l'Astronomie*. The commission expressed its interest in the extension of the said bibliography to the history of science and especially the review "Isis".

The commission accepted in principle the suggestion of Mr Donald H. Menzel, transmitted by Dr Shapley, that the *Bibliographie mensuelle* might make accessible to astrophysicists physical investigations from physical and chemical journals in all languages. M. de la Baume Pluvinel stated that an effort in that direction would be made by the *Bibliographie mensuelle*. The commission suggested that, to facilitate the work of this review, the different observatories, on request of the editor of the review, might send their publications to the persons in charge of making the abstracts.

### 3. THE GAP BETWEEN THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HOUZEAU-LANCASTER AND THE *JAHRESBERICHT*

The Belgian National Committee of Astronomy has, according to communications received from M. Bourgeois, the former secretary of Commission 5, taken up the problem which was only partially solved at the death of Prof. Stroobant, viz. to bridge the gap between the Houzeau-Lancaster bibliography and the *Jahresbericht*. The Belgian National Committee considers that this work should be continued by international co-operation with a considerable Belgian support. They also consider that co-ordination of the work and the execution of the main part of it will demand the whole time of one person. For this task has been suggested M. Pelseneer, Docteur en sciences physiques et mathématiques, and corresponding member of the Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences. A

demand for a grant has been made of the competent authority and an answer is expected in time for Commission 5 to take the necessary steps at the Stockholm congress.

#### 4. BELGIAN PROPOSAL ON CLASSIFICATION

The President of the Belgian National Committee of Astronomy has expressed to the Secretary General of the I.A.U. the following opinion:

“The Belgian National Committee of Astronomy considers that there are reasons to adopt an international classification in astronomy, on the lines of the universal decimal classification.”

Mr Bourgeois has pointed out that a similar opinion was expressed by Poland in 1928, viz. that steps be taken to facilitate the cataloguing of astronomical publications (*Transactions of the I.A.U.*, 3, 13). The same volume of the *Transactions* (p. 301) also records an authorization given in plenary session to Commission 5 to enter into collaboration with the International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation as regards questions outside the limits of astronomy.

At the International Congress of Universal Documentation, where the President and Secretary of Commission 5 were present, the question of international classification was discussed at length, and it is understood that the problem is studied by the Council for Universal Documentation.

KNUT LUNDMARK  
*President of the Commission*

P. COLLINDER  
*Secretary*

LUND AND STOCKHOLM  
*May 1938*