

PART III
MEETINGS OF COMMISSIONS

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Commission 3. (NOTATIONS.)

PRESIDENT: Prof. F. Schlesinger.

SECRETARY: Dr J. Schilt.

The first point on the agenda dealt with the standard equinox. The Chairman stated that this Committee had to give their opinion about this point as a consequence of a resolution by the General Assembly.

The Committee adopted the resolution, proposed by Dr Schlesinger, to use 1900 as standard equinox for all catalogues which are not catalogues of precision, and afterwards the year 2000.

In the second place, the Committee discussed the question of the abbreviations for the names of the constellations. The Chairman pointed out that there is a demand for 4-letter abbreviations to be used in cases where a maximum saving of space is not necessary. The proposed 4-letter abbreviations, however, are not intended to replace the 3-letter standard abbreviations as adopted in the meeting at Rome in 1922. Dr Schlesinger moved that the 4-letter abbreviations as used in his Catalogue of Bright Stars be adopted with a few exceptions. Dr Russell suggested a few other exceptions and the Committee finally approved of the following five exceptions: *Arie*, *Canc*, *Dlph*, *Tria*, and *Tr Au*, which will be used instead of the abbreviations in the Bright Star Catalogue. In all other cases the abbreviations as printed in the Bright Star Catalogue will be used.

The revised list is as follows:

Constellation	Abbreviation		Constellation	Abbreviation	
	3-letter	4-letter		3-letter	4-letter
Andromeda ...	And	Andr	Columba ...	Col	Colm
Antlia ...	Ant	Antl	Coma Berenices ...	Com	Coma
Apus ...	Aps	Apus	Corona Austrina ...	Cr A	Cor A
Aquarius ...	Aqr	Aqar	Corona Borealis ...	Cr B	Cor B
Aquila ...	Aql	Aqil	Corvus ...	Crv	Corv
Ara ...	Ara	Arae	Crater ...	Crt	Crat
Aries ...	Ari	Arie	Crux ...	Cru	Cruc
Auriga ...	Aur	Auri	Cygnus ...	Cyg	Cygn
Bootes ...	Boo	Boot	Delphinus ...	Del	Dlph
Caelum ...	Cae	Cael	Dorado ...	Dor	Dora
Camelopardalis ...	Cam	Caml	Draco ...	Dra	Drac
Cancer ...	Cnc	Canc	Equuleus ...	Equ	Equl
Canes Venatici ...	C Vn	C Ven	Eridanus ...	Eri	Erid
Canis Major ...	C Ma	C Maj	Fornax ...	For	Forn
Canis Minor ...	C Mi	C Min	Gemini ...	Gem	Gemi
Capricornus ...	Cap	Capr	Grus ...	Gru	Grus
Carina ...	Car	Cari	Hercules ...	Her	Herc
Cassiopeia ...	Cas	Cass	Horologium ...	Hor	Horo
Centaurus ...	Cen	Cent	Hydra ...	Hya	Hyda
Cepheus ...	Cep	Ceph	Hydrus ...	Hyi	Hydi
Cetus ...	Cet	Ceti	Indus ...	Ind	Indi
Chamaeleon ...	Cha	Cham	Lacerta ...	Lac	Lacr
Circinus ...	Cir	Circ	Leo ...	Leo	Leon

Constellation	Abbreviation		Constellation	Abbreviation	
	3-letter	4-letter		3-letter	4-letter
Leo Minor ...	L Mi	L Min	Puppis ...	Pup	Pupp
Lepus ...	Lep	Leps	Pyxis ...	Pyx	Pyxi
Libra ...	Lib	Libr	Reticulum ...	Ret	Reti
Lupus ...	Lup	Lupi	Sagitta ...	Sge	Sgte
Lynx ...	Lyn	Lync	Sagittarius ...	Sgr	Sgtr
Lyra ...	Lyr	Lyra	Scorpius ...	Scr	Scor
Mensa ...	Men	Mens	Sculptor ...	Scl	Scul
Microscopium ...	Mic	Micr	Scutum ...	Sct	Scut
Monoceros ...	Mon	Mono	Serpens ...	Ser	Serp
Musca ...	Mus	Musc	Sextans ...	Sex	Sext
Norma ...	Nor	Norm	Taurus ...	Tau	Taur
Octans ...	Oct	Octn	Telescopium ...	Tel	Tele
Ophiuchus ...	Oph	Ophi	Triangulum ...	Tri	Tria
Orion ...	Ori	Orio	Triangulum Australe	Tr A	Tr Au
Pavo ...	Pav	Pavo	Tucana ...	Tuc	Tucn
Pegasus ...	Peg	Pegs	Ursa Major ...	U Ma	U Maj
Perseus ...	Per	Pers	Ursa Minor ...	U Mi	U Min
Phoenix ...	Phe	Phoe	Vela ...	Vel	Velr
Pictor ...	Pic	Pict	Virgo ...	Vir	Virg
Pisces ...	Psc	Pisc	Volans ...	Vol	Voln
Piscis Austrinus ...	Ps A	Psc A	Vulpecula ...	Vul	Vulp

The third and last point under consideration was the uniformity in notations. Prof. Russell pointed out a danger in duplicating symbols for different conceptions and proposed the following motion which was carried:

“This Commission looks with favour upon a movement towards the establishment of uniform notations for astronomical symbols and quantities provided that care be taken not to conflict with similar notations in allied sciences.”

Commission 4. (EPHEMERIDES.)

PRESIDENT: Prof. E. W. Brown.

SECRETARY: Prof. A. Kopff.

1. Miss Vinter Hansen’s proposal that the equation of time be given with the same sign in all almanacs was referred to the directors of the national ephemerides.

2. There was a discussion of the proposal by Dr L. J. Comrie that efforts be made to eliminate duplicate printing in the national ephemerides. It was moved and carried “That the question of duplicate printing be referred to the directors of the principal almanacs, and that they be requested to report at the next meeting of the Union.”

3. The possibility of adopting a uniform system for star positions was also referred to the directors.

4. Prof. Kopff announced that the *Berliner Jahrbuch* will use its revised (third) Fundamental Catalogue from 1934 onwards. He announced also that precession tables for the equinox of 1950, based on Newcomb’s value of the precession constant, have been prepared.

5. Prof. Fayet announced that from 1935 onwards the *Connaissance des Temps* will give all ephemerides of circumpolar stars with an interval of one day.