

temperature and humidity. b) Compilation of a more detailed Inventory and making this available for students of the IAU history.

## **THE GENERAL SECRETARIES OF THE IAU**

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Since its foundation in 1919 there have been 16 general Secretaries (GS) of the Union, including the present incumbent ; nine are still alive, 6 past GS are here at this General Assembly (GA). During the period of World War II W.S. Adams held J.H.Oort's power of attorney to act as GS. All have been unpaid, supported through their terms of office by their own institutions. Their task is to act for the Union in all its business -between GAs and between Meetings of the Executive Committee (EC) ; to report on actions taken to the EC and to act within the framework of policy decided by the GA and interpreted by the EC. Because of the wide geographical spread of the EC and, more generally, that of the Union members, GSs have enjoyed considerable freedom of action to support international astronomy. The steady growth in the membership of the Union since 1919 and the standing of the Union reflects the integrity of purpose of those who have discharged the office.

The membership of the Union in 1922 was 207 of whom 83 participated in the first GA in Rome. At the XXIst GA in Buenos Aires (1991) membership had increased to 7301 with a participation of about 1400. Given a growth in membership by a factor of just over 35, it is clear that the working practice of the Union have had to be revised over the intervening years. For example, some of the early GSs served multiple trienna - Stratton served three. The late D.H. Sadler (who served for two trienna) instituted the office of Assistant General Secretary (AGS) to ease the burden on the GS. By tradition the AGS now takes responsibility for Symposia, Colloquia and other IAU Scientific Meetings apart from the GA. E.A. Müller negotiated the establishment of a permanent location for the Union Secretariat. Previously the Secretariat (i.e. after the establishment of such support at Union expense) and the Union records moved triennially to the home institution of the newly incumbent GS -clearly a move of growing disruption as Union records of membership grew. The Observatoire de Paris housed the Union in one of its Gatehouses - historic and gracious if increasingly overcrowded accomodation. The Secretariat remains in Paris where it is now housed in the same building as the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris and the Union owes a considerable debt of gratitude to CNRS through INSU and the French astronomical community for this generous support.

Traditionally GS have been European -in recent years to keep to a minimum, costs and time of travel to Paris. Four GS have come from the UK, three from the Netherlands, two each from Denmark and France, one each from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Ireland and Switzerland. Soon there will be the first from Germany if I may anticipate an election. I hesitate to comment on the deep significance of the GS qualities of the UK, Netherlands, Denmark and France. The office is demanding and that demand grows no less onerous with the passage of time. The GS of the Union is central to maintaining

the links between astronomers internationally and to the promotion of international co-operation in astronomical research. That co-operation is no less important in our own time than it was at any earlier time in the Union's history.

Period	GA	GS	C	M	P	Location of GA
1919-22	I	1-A.Fowler(UK)	27	207	83	Rome
1922-25	II	A.Fowler	27	244	189	Cambridge (UK)
1925-28	III	2-F.J.M.Stratton(UK)	27	288	261	Leiden*
1928-32	IV	F.J.M.Stratton	30	406	203	Cambridge (USA)
1932-35	V	F.J.M.Stratton	31	496	317	Paris
1935-38	VI	3-J.H.Oort(N)	32	554	293	Stockholm
1938-48	VII	J.H.Oort	39	611	279	Zürich
1948-52	VIII	4-B.Stromgren(D)	39	809	434	Rome
1952-55	IX	5-P.T.Oosterhoff(N)	38	888	597	Dublin
1955-58	X	P.T.Oosterhoff	36	1127	820	Moscow
1958-61	XI	6-D.H.Sadler(UK)	36	1289	765	Berkeley
1961-64	XII	D.H.Sadler	38	1630	1160	Hamburg
1964-67	XIII	7-J.-C.Pecker(F)	38	2009	1835	Prague*
1967-70	XIV	8-L.Perek(Cz)	39	2590	2255	Brighton**
1970-73	XV	9-C.de Jager(N)	40	3188	840	Sydney
1973-76	XVI	10-G.Contopoulos(G)	40	3805	2135	Grenoble
1976-79	XVII	11-E.A.Müller(S)	39	4504	1965	Montréal
1979-82	XVIII	12-P.A.Wayman(I)	40	5200	1700	Patras
1982-85	XIX	13-R.M.West(D)	40	6025	1400	Delhi
1985-88	XX	14-J.-P.Swing(B)	40	6711	1900	Baltimore
1988-91	XXI	15-D.McNally(UK)	40	7301	1400	Buenos Aires
1991-94	XXII	16-J.Bergeron(F)	40	7876	2000	Den Hague
1994-97	XXIII	17-I.Appenzeller(G)	39			Kyoto

\* For the period of the Second World War Oort transferred the power of Attorney with respect to the IAU affairs to W.S. Adam.

\* 91% greatest participation rate as a percentage of membership

\*\* Greatest participation at any GA

C : number of Commissions ; M : membership of Union ; P : participants attending the GA

Source of data : IAU/IB n° 57, 1986 ; IAU Transactions B, 1989,1992.

## FIFTY YEARS REMEMBRANCE OF ASTROPHYSICS WITHIN THE IAU

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Scientists, in particular researchers, are often faced with findings by their discoveries or interpretations which provoke intense excitement as they throw light on problems which have worried the scientist. A great many such instances have crossed my astronomical wake during the past fifty odd years. I would like to recall one such case particularly exciting to me. In the November 1944 issue of the *Astrophysical Journal*, Baade had a lengthy article where he announced the results of his painstaking observations. Why has Baade work made such an impact on me personally ? Briefly because it provided a physical