

REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS

3. COMMISSION DES NOTATIONS, DES UNITÉS ET DE L'ÉCONOMIE DES PUBLICATIONS

PRÉSIDENT: M. F. SCHLESINGER, *Director of the Yale Observatory, New Haven, Conn., U.S.A.*

MEMBRES: MM. Bosler, Chant, De Vos van Steenwijk, Fisher, Grabowski, Horn d'Arturo, Ludendorff, Russell, Strömgren, Stroobant.

At the meeting held at Leiden on July 13, 1928, the Union approved the recommendation of Commission 3 to adopt new boundaries for the constellations north of $12^{\circ}5$ south declination, these boundaries being, in each case, hour circles or parallels of declination. The Union also approved of a grant to cover the cost of publishing an atlas showing these new boundaries. The boundaries were defined by Mr Delporte of the Uccle Observatory from whom this proposal originally came. Mr Delporte's boundaries were carefully examined at Yale Observatory in order to make sure that no variable stars would have their designations changed, and that a minimum of stars having Baeyer or Flamsteed designations would be moved to other constellations. After making a few minor alterations on these accounts, Mr Delporte sent his manuscript to the General Secretary, under whose supervision the Cambridge University Press published, in 1930, a volume entitled, *Délimitation Scientifique des Constellations*. At the suggestion of the present writer this volume extends not merely to $12^{\circ}5$ south declination, but from pole to pole. Gould had, for the most part, defined the southern constellations by hour circles and parallels; in the few cases where this had not been done, Mr Delporte revised the boundaries accordingly.

With the approval of the Executive Committee, an *Atlas Céleste* was published in the same way by the Cambridge University Press, showing all stars down to the sixth magnitude in their new boundaries, and giving the positions in the text of bright stars together with the most important variables, double stars, nebulae and clusters.

At the meeting held at Rome in 1922, the Union adopted a standard set of three-letter abbreviations for the constellations. It is proposed to introduce at the forthcoming meeting a resolution for the adoption of standard four-letter abbreviations for which there seems to be considerable demand. The advantage of these is that they would suggest at once the name of the constellation, which is not always true of the three-letter abbreviations.

There seems also to be a demand for the publication in one place of a set of notations covering the whole field of astronomy, with the understanding that the adoption of these notations is not urged by the Union, but that they are set down with the hope of gradually introducing uniformity of notation so far as such uniformity is feasible and desirable.

FRANK SCHLESINGER

President of the Commission