

38. COMMISSION POUR L'ÉCHANGE DES ASTRONOMES
(Comité du Comité Exécutif)

PRÉSIDENT: Professor M. G. J. Minnaert, Sterrewacht 'Sonnenborgh', Zonnenburg 2, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

VICE-PRÉSIDENT: Professor M. Migeotte, Institut d'Astrophysique, Université de Liège, Cointe-Sclessin, Belgium.

COMITÉ D'ORGANISATION: B. J. Bok, D. Ya. Martynov, T. L. Page.

MEMBRES: Abetti, Babcock (H. D.), Bappu, Bowen, Danjon, Keller, Kienle, Kourganoff, Mikhailov, Miyamoto, Mohr, Righini, Rosseland, Sahade, Stoy, Swings, Thackeray, Witkowski, Wood (F. B.), Wyatt.

MEMBRE CONSULTANT: Fournier d'Albe (E. M.).

In the last report of this Commission, written at the end of 1963, we mentioned with some surprise that the number of travel grants awarded has shown but little variations in the preceding ten years. Since then the situation has drastically changed. In the last three years a total of 52 awards has been made, *twice as much* as in each of the previous periods. It is clear that the wonderful possibilities available have gradually become known and that more and more institutes are taking advantage of them. In 16 other cases the request could not be granted or was sent only for provisional information and did not result in an allocation.

In the period 1964-66 the following grants were made:

125. A British astronomer to Austin.
6. A Czechoslovakian astronomer to Herstmonceux.
7. A Belgian astronomer to Tucson.
8. A British astronomer to Paris.
9. An Italian astronomer to Mt Hamilton.
130. A Japanese astronomer, returning from Heidelberg.
 1. A Japanese astronomer to Santa Monica.
 2. An English astronomer to Groningen.
 3. A Polish astronomer to Sydney.
 4. A Belgian astronomer to Mt Stromlo.
 5. An Argentine astronomer to Hamburg and Praha.
 6. A French astronomer to Mt Palomar.
 7. A Czechoslovakian astronomer to Liège.
 8. A Japanese astronomer to Pic-du-Midi.
 9. A Japanese astronomer to Utrecht.
140. An Indian astronomer to Tucson.
 1. A Czechoslovakian astronomer to Victoria.
 2. A French astronomer to Cairo.
 3. A Dutch astronomer to Nice.
 4. An Italian astronomer to Pic-du-Midi.
 5. An Italian astronomer to Utrecht.
 6. A Belgian astronomer to Edinburgh.
 7. An Australian astronomer to McDonald Observatory.
 8. An Indian astronomer to Utrecht.
 9. An Italian astronomer to Leiden.
150. A Czechoslovakian astronomer to Asiago.

1. A Japanese astronomer to Los Angeles.
2. A Dutch astronomer to Praha.
3. A British astronomer to Mt Hamilton.
4. An Egyptian astronomer to several European observatories.
5. A Finnish astronomer to Meudon.
6. A Greek astronomer to Meudon.
7. An Israeli astronomer, returning from Tucson.
8. An Italian astronomer to Leiden.
9. A French astronomer to Berkeley.
160. A Yugoslavian astronomer to Nijmegen.
 1. Two Argentine astronomers to U.S.A. National Radio Observatory.
 2. An Indonesian astronomer to Mt Stromlo.
 3. Two German astronomers to Berkeley.
 4. A Belgian astronomer to Nice.
 5. A Greek astronomer to Meudon.
 6. A Japanese astronomer to Pasadena.
 7. An Indian astronomer to Toronto.
 8. An Egyptian astronomer to Herstmonceux.
 9. A French astronomer to Tucson.
170. An Indian astronomer, returning from Utrecht.
 1. A French astronomer to La Jolla.
 2. A Japanese astronomer to Groningen.
 3. An Australian astronomer to the U.S.S.R.
 4. A British astronomer to Kingston.
 5. An Israeli astronomer to Utrecht.
 6. An Italian astronomer to the U.S.A.

In surveying this list, we notice that a considerable fraction of the grants, actually 67%, have been allocated for *intercontinental* travel. It seems that gradually more and more opportunities for nearby travels become available, while the IAU is almost the only body from which help on a larger scale can be expected. In the same way we notice that there were no requests concerning travels from one of the U.S.A. states to the other, nor from one of the U.S.S.R. republics to the other. From the total number of grants, 33% concerned travels to the U.S.A.

The purposes for which the subsidies were granted may be summarized as follows:

To get acquainted with the instruments or methods of an institute, specialized in a certain field; or to discuss theoretical problems with the members of such an institute.

To establish contacts between an observer and theorists.

To learn a special technique, in view of an instrument to be erected at the home observatory.

To obtain high dispersion spectra or other observations with big instruments.

To make special observations in the Southern Hemisphere or at a station with an exceptionally clear sky.

To combine a special, self-built apparatus with a big telescope.

To inspect the plate collections.

To make use of a big computer.

To prepare a book, written together with a foreign astronomer. To give final shape to a monograph.

During the three years 1964–66, the grants totalled \$22 542.24, including those (see hereafter) paid with the UNESCO subsidy, and taking into account partial reimbursements. Some of the grants listed above were not yet cashed on 31 December, 1966, and are therefore still included in the balance at hand on 31 December, 1966, which is of \$14 964.23.

During the years 1965-66 the committee received from UNESCO an important subsidy of 2000 U.S. dollars, to be granted to astronomers of developing countries. (Cf. *IAU Inf. Bull.* no. 16). This subsidy was used to pay the allocations nos. 140, 151, 162 in the above list and the allocation made by the Sub-Commission.

In the course of the year 1966, the Commission has for the first time exceeded to a rather considerable extent its yearly subsidy. This is considered to be a healthy development, since former years have left a certain accumulated balance, which should be gradually used.

As yet, the action of the Commission is still restricted in two respects: (1) only costs of travel are paid, no costs of living at the host observatory; (2) no grants are given for participation in symposia, unless if combined with scientific work of longer duration. Very roughly speaking, the subsidies granted do seldom exceed $\$300 \sqrt{t}$, where t is the duration of the stay, expressed in months. On the whole these restrictions are unavoidable; one might, however, consider the possibility of exceptions in very special cases.

Information concerning the activities of the Commission were given on request to cultural administrations in Belgium and in Peru.

The list of 'Facilities for Visiting Astronomers', prepared for the 1964 meeting as an appendix to the report, has been published only at the end of 1966 in volume XII A of the *Transactions*, p. 82. In order to avoid a similar delay, the next list will be published directly after the Prague meeting in the *IAU Information Bulletin*.

Since the last General Assembly the status of Commission 38 was modified: it became a committee of administrative character, working directly under the direction of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will have in future a certain responsibility in determining the general policy of the Commission. The collaboration with the General Secretary proved excellent.

On this same occasion the decision was taken to create a Sub-Commission, intended to help graduate students who want to specialize in astronomy, but who have not yet reached the doctor's degree. (Cf. *IAU Inf. Bull.*, no. 14.)

A report of this Sub-Commission is added below. The coordination of the activity of the Sub-Commission with the work of Commission 46 and its summer-schools will have to be carefully planned.

M. G. J. MINNAERT
President of the Commission

RAPPORT DE LA SOUS-COMMISSION

PRÉSIDENT: Professeur M. Migeotte, Institut d'Astrophysique, Université de Liège, Cointe-Sclessin, Belgique.

MEMBRES: H. Kienle, Mlle E. A. Müller, P. M. Routly.

La Sous-Commission a été créée à l'occasion du congrès de Hambourg 1964, pour faciliter le séjour à l'étranger de *licenciés en sciences*, qui désirent se spécialiser en astronomie et qui n'ont pas la possibilité de faire ces études dans leur pays. On a songé en particulier aux pays en voie de développement.

Deux demandes de subsides ont été reçues par le sous-comité.

- (1) Un étudiant du Nigéria, ayant le grade de B.Sc., se proposait d'aller étudier à Berkeley, où il pouvait bénéficier d'un 'research assistantship'. Il a demandé l'intervention de l'UAI pour couvrir ses frais de voyage. Le crédit demandé a été accordé en se

basant sur le curriculum vitae et sur des recommandations très élogieuses. Cependant, par suite de circonstances locales et personnelles, le candidat en question a dû décider d'ajourner d'un an son séjour à l'étranger.

- (2) Un étudiant d'Israël a demandé l'intervention du sous-comité pour poursuivre ses études à l'Université de Manitoba (Canada), où il peut obtenir une assistance financière. Il étudiera l'astronomie, en particulier la cosmologie et la relativité générale. — Après avoir examiné le curriculum vitae et vu les recommandations de quatre de ses professeurs, le sous-comité a décidé de mettre à la disposition de ce candidat une somme couvrant les frais de voyage.

Il est clair que la création du sous-comité n'a pas encore suffisamment attiré l'attention, quoiqu'elle ait été annoncée dans le *Bulletin d'Information* no. 14 (juin 1965). D'autre part il est difficile, pour la Sous-Commission, de payer les frais de séjour d'étudiants qui désirent poursuivre leurs études à l'étranger pendant un ou deux ans, vu l'importance des crédits qui devraient être accordés.

M. MIGEOTTE
Président de la Sous-Commission