

PART IV
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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September 8, 1932

The General Assembly met in the Longfellow Hall, Radcliffe College at 10.00 on Thursday, September 8. Sir Frank Dyson, President, in the chair.

The President read the names of those proposed by the Executive Committee to act as the Executive Committee of the Union till the next ordinary General Assembly. These names would be submitted for the approval of the General Assembly on the following day.

The following report of the Finance Committee was read by its Chairman, Prof. B. Lindblad:

Report of the Finance Committee

(1) The accounts of the General Secretary for the years 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931 have been audited by Miss Vinter Hansen, Prof. Niethammer and Dr Knox-Shaw, who have submitted the following report:

In auditing the accounts for the past four years, we have examined the vouchers for expenditure, the bank-books, and other relative documents, and we have found the statements drawn up by the General Secretary to be correct. The Balance carried forward from 1931 December was £1274. 8s., but, as already pointed out by the Executive Committee in their report, this is largely in excess of the effective balance.

We should like to draw attention to the fact that there are several countries which are three or more years in arrear in their subscriptions. Our thanks are due to Prof. Stratton for giving us every assistance we required.

JULIE M. VINTER HANSEN.
S. TH. NIETHAMMER.
H. KNOX-SHAW.

(2) The Finance Committee had before them the following applications for grants approved by the Executive Committee for submission to the General Assembly:

ANNUAL GRANTS

							gold francs
Commission	6	Bureau des Télégrammes	...	...	...	...	1200
"	12	Cartes synoptiques (Paris-Meudon)	...	...	...	...	*2600
"	12	Immagini spettroscopiche (Arcetri)	...	...	...	...	1500
"	19	Bureau de la Variation des Latitudes	...	...	...	...	2500
"	23	Carte du Ciel (printing)	...	...	...	...	7500
"	27	Ephemerides of eclipsing Binaries	...	...	...	...	800
"	31	Bureau de l'Heure	...	...	...	...	8000
"	34	Solar Parallax	...	...	...	...	2500
		Printing and Secretariat	...	...	...	...	6500
							<u>33100</u>

* Amended by the General Assembly (p. 262).

SPECIAL GRANTS			gold francs
Commission 12	Cartes synoptiques (Deficit in grant for 1932)	... ..	*600
,,	17 Printing of Lunar Designations	... ..	5000
,,	19 Printing of Results in Latitude Variation	... ..	2600
,,	31 Bureau de l'Heure (Deficit in grant for 1932)	... ..	2500
			10700
			10700

* Amended by the General Assembly.

An income of about 36000 gold francs a year had to be budgeted for and with an estimated number of 90 units available from the different countries an annual contribution of about 400 gold francs was seen to be necessary.

(3) The Finance Committee by the affirmative vote of fifteen countries (two not voting) agreed to recommend for the years until the next meeting a unit of 400 gold francs.

(4) It was agreed by the votes of sixteen countries (one not voting) that in case of a deficiency occurring in the funds available preference should be given, if possible, to the annual grants over the special grants.

(5) It was resolved by forty-two votes to five that, in the view of the Committee, it was at the present moment more important to reduce the subscription than to risk the loss of further members by increase of the grants to Commissions.

BERTIL LINDBLAD

Chairman of the Finance Committee

The adoption of the above report was moved by Prof. Lindblad and seconded by Mr Dawson.

Prof. Esclançon reminded the Assembly that Commission 12 had unanimously asked for 3000 gold francs as the annual grant for the *Cartes Synoptiques*. The Executive Committee in cutting down the grant had not been informed of the exact position: the work on the earlier years was still under way and not finished. The expense was higher than the amount allotted and he asked that the grant be maintained at 3000 gold francs. If that were granted he would withdraw the application for the special grant of 600 gold francs. Prof. Schlesinger seconded the amendment which was adopted. The amended report was then adopted, the President remarking that the various grants had been very carefully worked out by the Executive Committee.

Prof. Schlesinger then presented the report of Commission 3. He announced that the Commission in reply to the resolution from Holland proposed that 1900.0 be adopted as the standard equinox for catalogues other than those of precision, and that when a change became desirable the equinox for 2000.0 should be adopted. The Commission also recommended the adoption of the 4-letter abbreviations for the names of constellations as used in the Catalogue of Bright Stars with five amendments. They had also adopted a resolution in favour of a uniform notation so far as such a notation did not conflict with the uses of other cognate sciences.

Dr Plaskett asked why the change from 3- to 4-letter abbreviations was proposed, and Prof. Schlesinger explained that it was not proposed to supersede the 3-letter abbreviations, but the 4-letter abbreviations were sometimes advantageous and might be approved by the Union.

The report was adopted.

Prof. E. W. Brown presented the report of Commission 4. There were no resolutions for submission to the General Assembly. The report was adopted.

M. Bosler read the resolutions sent forward from Commission 5 to the General Assembly. The report of the Commission was adopted.

Prof. Strömgren reported that Commission 6 had asked for a renewal of their grant, which the Assembly had just approved. The Commission had taken preliminary steps to improve the European telegrams by including a reference to the physical appearance of the objects discovered. The report of the Commission was adopted.

Prof. Strömgren read a resolution passed unanimously by Commission 7 that it should be abolished and that its work on tables should be transferred to Commission 4. The Commission welcomed new tables by Dr Comrie and Prof. Peters. The proposal of the Commission was adopted.

Dr Oort read the report of Commission 8 and referred to three resolutions submitted by the Commission to the General Assembly. The first related to the proposal to set up the Pulkova vertical circle in a southern latitude, the second to a sub-committee to deal with the re-observation of the A.G. zones and the third to the arrangement by the President of the Commission for co-operation between observers of stars in Mineur's programme.

The President added that the last two resolutions were domestic but the first resolution would be submitted to the General Assembly separately so that the full support of the Union might be offered to the Pulkova astronomers. Dr Witkowski especially welcomed this important resolution which should lead to an improvement of fundamental declinations by the use of the same instrument in both northern and southern declinations. It had been a hobby of Prof. Zaleski at Poznan: he had hoped to continue his work with observations in New Zealand, but was prevented by his death in 1927 from carrying out his plans. The resolution was passed unanimously and the report of the Commission adopted.

M. le Comte de la Baume Pluvinel in presenting the report of Commission 9 for adoption stated that the Commission was asking that a characteristic number should be settled to indicate the optical quality of the larger telescopes.

Dr St John reported that Commission 12 had decided to divide itself into four independent commissions, on sunspots, chromospheric phenomena, solar spectroscopy and radiation, and eclipses. The subventions for which they asked had been approved. They were submitting a resolution emphasizing the value of the work carried on at the Coimbra Observatory. The resolutions were approved and Prof. Da Costa Lobo thanked Commission 12 and the General Assembly for their support. The report of the Commission was adopted.

Mr Babcock stated that Commission 14 had met in the unfortunate absence of Prof. Fowler but the results of their meeting could be summarized in a series of recommendations inspired by Prof. Fowler. The President remarked that this Commission's work was a whole science in itself. They would pass these recommendations as they came from the Commission. The report was adopted.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips reported that Commission 16 had held a joint meeting with Commission 22 to discuss the question of transferring comets to the latter Commission but that it had been decided to make no change. The Commission had requested its President to appoint a special secretary to circulate planetary information and to arrange co-operative work on planets and comets. They had also asked him to appoint a sub-committee to discuss Martian nomenclature and to report to the next meeting. The report of the Commission was adopted.

Prof. Brown reported that Commission 17 recommended that a list of lunar

designations and of corrections to Miss Blagg's former list should be printed and that a sum not exceeding £200 should be granted for this purpose. The Committee had adopted a resolution of especial thanks to Miss Blagg for her work during the past twenty-five years and were writing to thank her and also Prof. Muller for the work he had done in co-operating with Miss Blagg. The letters were read to the General Assembly by the President and adopted by the Assembly as coming from them. The report of the Commission was adopted.

General Perrier read the resolutions submitted by Commission 18 (p. 284). These were submitted to the meeting and approved with the report.

Mr W. D. Lambert stated that Commission 19, regretting the absence of their President, Prof. Kimura, had passed a special resolution of thanks to him for his detailed report and for the excellent work done under his direction. The grants they had asked for had already been approved. They were for the very essential purpose of making fully available for use the work already done. The Commission had approved the proposition of their President to reduce the number of stars to be observed and to return to the earlier methods employed. To secure uniformity it had been decided to refer displacements to the mean pole deduced from the observations of the period 1900-6. All necessary details to make these reductions would be given to those concerned. The report was adopted.

Prof. Leuschner stated that a number of resolutions and recommendations had been adopted by Commission 20, which did not need formal action by the General Assembly. He would merely move the adoption of the report and invite the attention of the Union to them as they would appear in the minutes of the meeting of the Commission.

Prof. Olivier stated that Commission 22 wished to submit to the General Assembly resolutions in support of continued study of the meteoric masses at Adrar in North Africa and in Siberia, asking the Governments of France and the U.S.S.R. to continue the explorations at the two craters. They also urged on the Assembly the desirability of continuing the expedition to Arizona for a second year to fill in the gaps caused by moon and clouds in the first year. Mr Weld Arnold pointed out that motion pictures of the Siberian area already existed. The resolutions of the Commission and its report were adopted.

Prof. Esclançon reported on the present position of the *Carte du Ciel*. On the whole the work was making good progress except for certain zones where there were special difficulties, mostly of a financial nature. Commission 23 asked for subventions to help the work at Hyderabad, Edinburgh and Oxford. They hoped that other observatories would continue their work on the plates of the *Carte du Ciel* especially for the region of the Milky Way, where this work was important. The report was adopted.

Prof. Mitchell reported that Commission 24 had adopted the Draft Report as printed and asked for no money grants. Their report was adopted.

Prof. Jules Baillaud in presenting the report of Commission 25 drew attention to the value of the work of Prof. Seares in establishing relationships between various catalogues and the international scale of magnitudes. It was a new and important contribution towards settling a fundamental problem. At the same time there was nothing definite in science and Seares's formulae might be modified by a more extended discussion. The Commission regarded them as provisional and had placed them in an appendix to the report. Other contributions had been made by Profs. Lundmark, Hertzprung and Shapley which had also been placed in the appendix. The report was adopted.

Prof. Hertzprung reported that Commission 26 on double stars had appointed a

sub-committee to discuss systematic errors in observation. No resolutions had been adopted and no subvention was being applied for.

Prof. Shapley reported that Commission 27 had asked for one grant which had been partially granted. In view of the need of comparison stars a small sub-committee had been appointed with himself as Chairman to learn the needs of the observers. The Commission had also endorsed an offer from Prof. Grouiller to make a compilation of non-published observations for publication by the Union, probably a pamphlet of some six to ten pages. The President said that if there was only a question of so small a pamphlet as that there was no need for the Assembly to hesitate in accepting the report, which was then adopted.

Prof. Lundmark stated that a report had been prepared and submitted to Commission 28. A resolution was submitted asking the attention of variable star observers to the need of more accurate determinations of the periods of cluster type variables. Prof. Shapley suggested that the intention of the resolution would be clearer if "more accurate" were replaced by "continued" and "periods" by "epochs." With these alterations the report was adopted.

Prof. Russell reported that Commission 29 had appointed two sub-committees on (1) Wolf-Rayet stars and (2) criteria for classification of spectra of high and low dispersion. The report of the Commission was adopted.

Dr Plaskett reported that the Draft Report of Commission 30 had been adopted with some minor amendments. The Commission had received a catalogue of radial velocities prepared by Dr Moore, a most important and valuable work. They had passed a resolution expressing their high appreciation of the work of Dr and Mrs Moore and of the action of the Lick Observatory in publishing the catalogue. They had also adopted another resolution for submission to the General Assembly with regard to the need for radial velocity work in the southern hemisphere. He need hardly tell the members of the Union that if a large telescope were established in the south, radial velocity determinations did not provide the only valuable work that it could do. This resolution was formally proposed by Dr Adams and seconded by Dr Frost and was adopted unanimously with acclamation. The report of the Commission was adopted.

In presenting the report of Commission 31 Prof. Nörlund stated that the new regulations placed before the Leiden meeting had been approved by the Executive Committee. The *Bureau de l'Heure* accepted the recommendations for extra work which had been suggested at the Stockholm Congress, if the financial situation allowed. Mr Jouaust had given an account of his work on the registration of time signals and the resolution already reported by Commission 18 had been also adopted by Commission 31. Financial motions from Profs. Bianchi, Silva and Carnera had led to a long discussion before the Commission had come to an agreed result, which had already been approved by the General Assembly in making its grants for the coming years. The report of the Commission was adopted.

Dr Oort in presenting the report of Commission 33 stated that there were no resolutions that they wished to lay before the General Assembly.

Prof. Schlesinger referred to the exceptionally full and able report prepared by Dr Spencer Jones for Commission 34. There were two resolutions from the Commission; one for financial aid had already been approved; the second referred to the publication by observatories of the standard co-ordinates as well as the right ascension and declination of secondary comparison stars. The report was adopted.

Sir Arthur Eddington reported that Commission 35 had adopted the Draft Report and had no recommendations to make.

The General Assembly then adjourned to the following day.