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33a. SOUS-COMMISSION DE CO-ORDINATION DES RECHERCHES GALACTIQUES

PRÉSIDENT: Professor J. H. Oort, Director of the University Observatory, Leiden, the Netherlands.

MEMBRES: Baade†, Blaauw, B. Lindblad, Parenago†, Thackeray, van Rhijn†.

The Sub-Commission has had no occasion to meet and, as a consequence, has nothing to report. Adequate reference to work done in the field of Galactic Research is made in the report of the main Commission. It is felt that the Sub-Commission should continue to exist, in this or some other form, if only to organize symposia on the co-ordination of Galactic Research whenever such a symposium is needed.

J. H. OORT
President of the Sub-Commission

33b. SOUS-COMMISSION POUR LA DETERMINATION DU POLE GALACTIQUE ET DES LONGITUDES GALACTIQUES

MEMBRES: Blaauw, Gum†, Pawsey, Westerhout.

At the Moscow General Assembly, a resolution proposed by Commissions 33 and 40 was passed which, among other items, contained the following recommendations:

- (c) That Sub-Commission 33*b* be authorized to define the exact values of the co-ordinates of the pole and of the zero of longitude, immediately after the final reduction of the relevant observations is finished.
- (d) That Sub-Commission 33*b* be charged with the communication of these values to the Members of the IAU and to all other interested institutions and individuals.
- (e) That Sub-Commission 33*b* be charged with the supervision of the publication of tables, accurate to $0^{\circ}.01$, necessary for the conversion from galactic into equatorial co-ordinates and *vice versa*, and from co-ordinates based on the Lund pole into the newly defined system and *vice versa*, and of conversion charts'.

The task of the Sub-Commission described in (c) and (d) has been completed. The exact values of the co-ordinates of the pole and of the zero of longitude, as well as approximate values of a number of related useful quantities have been communicated to the General Secretary, who in turn communicated these values to Members in *Information Bulletin* no. 1 of June 1959. This bulletin also gives a short description of the basis for the choice of the new system.

An extensive report of the Sub-Commission has been published in *Monthly Notices RAS* 121, 123 to 173, 1960. It contains 5 sections. Section I refers to the history of the subject and summarizes the considerations which have led to the adoption of the new system (which is to be referred to as the 1958 Revision). This section also includes the complete version of the 1958 resolution and gives the exact figures of the positions of the pole and of longitude zero in the new system, and the approximate values of related useful quantities.

Sections II to V deal with the following investigations which provided basic information for the choice of the new system:

II. A 21-cm determination of the Principal Plane, by Gum, Kerr and Westerhout.

III. Radio data relevant to the choice of the system, by Gum and Pawsey.

IV. Optical determinations of the galactic pole, by Blaauw.

V. The position of the galactic centre, with special reference to the radio observations, by Oort and Rougoor.

A wide distribution of this report will be arranged.

With regard to the publication of the conversion tables mentioned under (e), the Sub-Commission has chosen to accept an offer from C. Schalén and Miss I. Torgard of the Lund Observatory, according to which Miss Torgard will supervise the computation of these tables, which then will be published in the *Annals of the Lund Observatory*. At the time of writing the computations have been practically finished and copy for offset printing is being prepared. Publication is expected well before the Berkeley meeting.

The tables will include the following:

- A. Tables for the conversion of equatorial to galactic co-ordinates for the equinox 1950, with intervals of 4^m in R.A. and 1° in declination; l and b will be given to $0^\circ.01$.
- B. Tables for the conversion of galactic to equatorial co-ordinates, also for the equinox 1950, for intervals of 1° in l and b ; α and δ to be given to $0^\circ.01$.
- C. Tables for the conversion of old galactic into new galactic co-ordinates. For each value of the old co-ordinates, the differences Δl and Δb between the new and the old co-ordinates are given in $0^\circ.01$.

Tables A and B will both be supplemented by two interpolation tables, one for detailed interpolation to full precision and one for rough interpolation.

A. BLAAUW

33c. SOUS-COMMISSION DES 'SELECTED AREAS'

PRÉSIDENT: Dr T. Elvius, Astronomiska Observatoriet, Uppsala, Sweden.

MEMBRES: Allen, F. Becker, Bok, Brouwer, A. N. Deutsch, Fehrenbach, Heard, Mme Kalandadze, Kharadze, Mlle Roman, Stoy.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

With much regret we have all noted that Professor Pieter van Rhijn died on 9 May 1960. He was born in 1886, and from 1921 he was director of the Sterrenkundig Laboratorium Kapteyn in Groningen as immediate successor to J. C. Kapteyn. Professor van Rhijn was one of the