

41. COMMISSION DE L'HISTOIRE DE L'ASTRONOMIE

Report of Meeting, 26 August 1964

PRESIDENT: P. G. Kulikovsky.

SECRETARY: W. Petri.

There were present more than 40 members and guests.

Business Meeting

The agenda for the business meeting was:

1. Additions to the Draft Report.
2. Discussion of the Draft Report and Resolutions.
3. Membership of the Commission.

Before the beginning of this session the President distributed among the members and guests copies of the Bibliography of books and papers published in 1963 on the history of astronomy.

I. ADDITIONS TO THE DRAFT REPORT

The President communicated the titles of the following works, published after the preparation of the Draft Report:

O. Neugebauer and R. A. Parker, *Egyptian Astronomical Texts*, vol. 2. *The Ramesside star clocks*, 78 pages + 67 illustrations, 1964.

E. Rybka, *Four hundred years of the Copernican heritage*, Krakow Univ., 235 pages (in English), 1964.

Ric. H. Allen. *Star Names—Their Lore and Meaning*, Dover, 563 pages, Re-edition, 1963.

E. Zinner, *Aus alten Handschriften*, Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Bamberg N. 39, 1964.

The President noted a fruitful use of electronic computing machines IBM for resolving some problems of the history of astronomy:

H. Gerard, 'Stonehenge Decoded', *Nature* (London), **200**, 1963;

O. Gingerich, 'The Computer Versus Kepler', *Amer. Scientist*, **52**, no. 2, 1964.

The President reported that an International Symposium on the History of Astronomy sponsored by the International Union on the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS) and the IAU took place in Hamburg on 22–24 August 1964. There were present more than 50 participants from 16 countries. The first day, devoted to the development of astronomical instruments and measuring techniques, numbered 12 papers; the second day, devoted to the problems of astronomical historiography—another 12. On 23 August the inauguration of the Exhibition '*Documenta astronomica*' and a special demonstration in Hamburg Planetarium took place. The transactions of the Symposium will be published by Pergamon Press in one volume of *Vistas in Astronomy*. All participants of the Symposium welcomed the initiative of IUHPS and thanked the chief organizer Prof. B. Sticker (Director of the Institut für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften der Universität Hamburg).

2. DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS

The following problems were proposed for the discussion: (1) Draft Report; (2) Proposals for the members and members-consultants of Commission 41 and for future President, Vice-President and members of the Organizing Committee; (3) Information Circulars and their future policy; (4) Annual Bibliographies and their future policy; (5) International Monography on the History of Astronomy; (6) Destiny of ancient and old scientific instruments. After the discussion the following resolutions were approved:

Resolutions

1. La Commission 41 (Histoire de l'Astronomie) de l'UAI s'adresse à l'Académie des Sciences Polonaise et lui demande de faire tout son possible pour aider le Professeur E. Rybka, Président de la Commission 41 pour la période 1964-7, à continuer la publication et la distribution des Circulaires d'Information (six par an), commencées par le Président précédent à Moscou à l'Académie des Sciences de l'U.R.S.S.

2. La Commission 41 (Histoire de l'Astronomie) s'adresse à l'Académie des Sciences de l'U.R.S.S. et lui demande de faire tout son possible pour aider à la continuation de l'édition et de la distribution par le Conseil Astronomique de l'Académie des Sciences de l'U.R.S.S. de la Bibliographie courante sur l'histoire de l'astronomie (trois ou quatre parutions par an). La Commission considère cette Bibliographie comme très nécessaire et très utile pour les recherches sur l'histoire de l'astronomie dans tous les pays.

3. La Commission 41 (Histoire de l'Astronomie) considère comme désirable que jusqu'à la session suivante (en 1967) un plan détaillé soit préparé pour une Monographie Internationale sur l'histoire de l'astronomie comprenant 3-4 volumes, en commençant par l'Antiquité. La Commission demande au Président et au Vice-Président d'organiser en Pologne en 1965 une réunion du Comité d'Organisation et—le cas échéant—d'autres personnes, pour établir un plan provisoire, basé sur un échange d'opinions par correspondance.

4. La résolution concernant la sauvegarde des anciens instruments se trouve p. 96 (Résolutions adoptées par l'Assemblée Générale).

3. MEMBERSHIP

Prof. E. Rybka (Krakow, Poland) was named as President and Prof. B. Sticker (Hamburg, DDR) as Vice-President of Commission 41. The Organizing Committee, in addition to the President and Vice-President *ex officio*, contains the following members: H. Dingle (England), A. V. Douglas (Canada), O. Gingerich (U.S.A.), V. L. Tchenakal (U.S.S.R.), K. Yabuuti (Japan).

The list of members of Commission 41 and consulting members for the next three years is given in IAU *Transactions*, XIIA and in IAU *Transactions*, XIIC.

Scientific Meeting, 28 August 1964

The agenda for the scientific meeting was as follows.

1. Prof. Fr. Zagar (Milan, Italy) reports on the celebrations of Galileo birthday in Italy. The President presents to Prof. Zagar a new Russian translation of *Sidereus Nuncius*.

2. Prof. M. Zverev (Pulkovo, U.S.S.R.) reports on celebrations of 125th anniversary of Pulkovo Observatory and shows some beautiful colour slides of Pulkovo taken in summer and in winter.

3. P. G. Kulikovskiy (U.S.S.R.) reports on 150th anniversary of Tartu Observatory and on the creation of the new Astrophysical Observatory 'Struve' near Tartu (in Tyrávere). He shows

few pertinent slides and mentions two Soviet editions devoted to W. Struve's life and scientific activity and issued on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of W. Struve's death.

4. Dr B. E. Tumanyan (Erevan, U.S.S.R.) reports on documents relating to the history of astronomy in Armenia. He shows some interesting photo-copies of ancient manuscripts and asks for further information about Armenian astronomical texts and instruments from any part of the world.

5. Dr O. Gingerich (U.S.A.) reports on early observations of Encke's Comet, which seems to have been a very conspicuous object in antiquity.

6. Dr T. Deeming (U.S.A.) reports on large set of Sir John Herschel manuscripts, now in possession of Texas University. He asks for specialists to study them. Microfilms are available, if subject matter will be indicated precisely.

P. G. Kulikovsky thanks members of Commission 41 for support given to him during his presidency and introduces Prof. E. Rybka as future President. Prof. E. Rybka delivers a short address as new President of the Commission, introduces Prof. B. Sticker as Vice-President and expresses gratitude to former President P. G. Kulikovsky.