

### 23. COMMISSION DE LA CARTE DU CIEL

PRÉSIDENT: M. TURNER, *University Observatory, Oxford.*

PRÉSIDENT D'HONNEUR: M. B. BAILLAUD.

MEMBRES: MM. J. Baillaud, Baldwin, A. Bemporad, Bhaskaran, Cooke, Cosserat, Curlewis, Delvosal, Dyson, Favaro, Gallo, Gonnessiat, Hagen, Herrero, Jones, L. Picart, Sampson, Schlesinger, Stroobant.

As stated in the last Report, the immediate aim is the completion of the Astrographic Catalogue, which has been urged on the co-operating observatories from time to time. The following brief reports are somewhat incomplete owing to the non-arrival of some replies to enquiries; but it will be seen that some progress has been made since the last Report.

GREENWICH. + 90° to + 65°. Completely printed and distributed.

VATICAN. + 64° to + 55°. The last volume (+ 55°) is printed to 23 h R.A.: all the others have been printed and distributed.

CATANIA. Since the last Report steady progress has been made by the combined efforts of Prof. Bemporad of Naples and Prof. Favaro. A brief report appears in the *Annuaire de l'Obs. de Catane pour 1928*, but this volume has not yet come to hand. This observatory has adopted the method of publication (initiated by the late Prof. Ricco) according to R.A. rather than declination, and of publishing not only rectangular but equatorial coordinates for all the stars. This last has of course greatly added to the work, but the Observatory wished to carry out the whole of its portion on this scale, and it was decided at Cambridge (*Report*, p. 201) that "in view of the welcome prospect of completing the Catania zones at an early date, the Commission de la Carte du Ciel does not press the suppression of the equatorial coordinates."

HELSINGFORS. + 46° to + 40°. All zones printed from 1 h 30 m to 15 h. No very recent news.

POTSDAM. + 39° to + 32°. The hope expressed at Cambridge that the Uccle Observatory might be able to obtain Government sanction and funds for taking over the completion of this portion (definitely relinquished by Potsdam) unfortunately was not realized: but it was not until a few months ago that it was definitely extinguished. Since then the President has made various enquiries with a view to finding some other substitute and has learnt that Mr Bhaskaran is ready, after completing the portion - 17° to - 23° already undertaken at Hyderabad (see below), to take and measure the plates in the northern half of the Potsdam portion (+ 39° to + 36°), *provided funds for printing can be guaranteed from international sources*. This is a generous offer, which further increases our indebtedness to the Nizamiah Observatory; and it is to be remarked, with regard to the proviso about printing, that printing expenses for the portion - 21° to - 23° have been very much heavier than was expected and have been met uncomplainingly by the Nizam's Government. It is entirely reasonable that they should ask that no further printing expense should fall upon them, if they do the work.

As regards the southern half of the portion (+ 35° to + 32°) which adjoins the Oxford portion, a large number of plates in the zones + 33° and + 32° have been published by Potsdam in miscellaneous order; and a good many of those remaining have been taken and measured at Oxford already. If funds can be assigned for printing, these two zones might be published at an early date, leaving only + 35° and + 34° outstanding. But these could not be undertaken

at Oxford without provision of funds not only for printing but for measuring and computing.

OXFORD. + 31° to + 25°. Completely printed and distributed.

PARIS. + 24° to + 18°. Five zones out of seven (+ 24° to + 20°) completely printed. No very recent news.

BORDEAUX. + 17° to + 11°. Vol. VI half printed and the other half ready for press. Only shortage of funds delays the printing, but it is hoped that the volume will appear this year; and then the printing of Vol. VII, *the last*, will immediately follow.

TOULOUSE. + 11° to + 5°. Four zones out of seven printed (+ 11° + 9° + 7° + 5°). No very recent news.

ALGIERS. + 4° to - 2°. Completely printed.

SAN FERNANDO. - 3° to - 9°. The last volume (- 9°) will be printed by the end of this year.

TACUBAYA. - 10° to - 16°. All - 15° printed and first six hours of - 16° (1½ volumes out of 7).

HYDERABAD. - 17° to - 20°. Completely printed and distributed.

HYDERABAD. - 21° to - 23°. Undertaken in 1922 in addition to the portion already completed. Volume - 21° printed and distributed: vol. - 22° printed: vol. - 23° practically ready for press.

CORDOBA. - 24° to - 31°. No less than five volumes (out of the eight) printed since the last report. This is a fine record.

PERTH. - 32° to - 37°. Completely printed and distributed.

EDINBURGH. - 38° to - 40°. Awaiting funds for printing.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. - 41° to - 51°. Completely printed and distributed.

SYDNEY. - 52° to - 64°. On the retirement of Mr Cooke in 1926, the Government of the day had decided to close the Observatory, but owing to the representations made by the Chancellor of the University, the Council of the Royal Society, and the Committee of the N.S.W. Branch of the British Astronomical Association, it was decided to continue it on a reduced scale. Mr James Nangle (Superintendent of Technical Education in N.S.W.) was placed in charge and has kindly sent a full report on the state of affairs. The prospects for the future are much improved, though as yet the amount of printing done is not large. The method of printing adopted by the former Director contemplated 52 small volumes, of which six had appeared. "There is material for four (other) volumes practically ready for the printer: and enough of measurements to make another four volumes. This leaves 38 volumes yet to be prepared by measuring, computing, and printing. Obviously there is a large amount of work yet to be done on the zones allotted to New South Wales" (dated Feb. 22, 1928).

MELBOURNE. - 65° to - 90°. Two volumes (- 65° and - 66°) published since the last report, and very encouraging prospects for the future reported by Mr Baldwin.

H. H. TURNER

*President of the Commission*

*April 30, 1928*