

## 38. COMMISSION POUR L'ECHANGE DES ASTRONOMES

PRÉSIDENT: M. F. J. M. STRATTON, *Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, England.*

MEMBRES: MM. Y. C. Chang, Danjon, B. H. Dawson, Lindblad, Minnaert, G. A. Shajn, Struve, van den Bos, Witkowski.

1. At the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Union held at Copenhagen in March 1946 the following resolutions were adopted:

(a) That a standing Commission be appointed for facilitating the exchange of astronomers.

(b) That the attention of U.N.E.S.C.O. be drawn to the existence of this Commission as an advisory body to whom U.N.E.S.C.O. could refer questions of the exchange of astronomers.

Preliminary discussions with U.N.E.S.C.O. showed that the best way at the present juncture of carrying out the objects of the Commission would be to apply for a grant in aid from U.N.E.S.C.O. and to study the problem entirely inside astronomical circles. Accordingly a sum of £500 was asked for by the Commission for the year 1947; this has been granted, and a further amount of £1000 has been asked for for the year 1948. A grant of £750 was made by U.N.E.S.C.O. for 1948 and a grant of £1000 has been asked for again for 1949.

Regulations governing grants for travelling Fellowships have been adopted by U.N.E.S.C.O. at the conference of November 1947 and any future awards will be subject to these regulations.

2. An inquiry was sent to a large number of observatories to inquire about: (1) possible assistantships or research fellowships available for astronomers of other countries; and (2) known cases where students had been prevented from working at a foreign observatory owing to (a) currency restriction, (b) lack of the necessary funds. At the same time particulars were asked as to foreign astronomers who had worked at the observatories in recent years. The replies showed that over fifty astronomers had actually been working abroad from their own countries in recent years of whom over twenty had been working in war or post-war years. They also indicated a number of cases where it had proved impossible for students to work abroad for lack of the necessary funds. There were very few cases where currency restrictions had proved the actual bar.

From two observatories, Paris and Utrecht, came the very helpful suggestion that currency difficulties could be overcome in some cases by an exchange of two young astronomers between two observatories in different countries. It was hoped that each home observatory could be responsible for the stipend or maintenance of the visiting astronomer. One such exchange is already in operation between Blindern (Norway) and Paris.

This would not, however, be possible in all cases.

3. The inquiry showed the following facilities for visiting astronomers to hold Fellowships, studentships or temporary assistantships at various observatories.

Observatory	Type of post	Application to be made to
Arcetri-Firenze	Research Fellowships under the 'Fondazione Volta'	Fondazione Volta, c/o Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Umgara 10, Rome
Institut for Teoretisk Astrofysik, Blindern, Oslo	No formal Fellowship, but help can be found in special cases	The Director
Canberra	Occasional Research Fellowships	Advertised from time to time
David Dunlap	Part-time assistantships	The Director
Harvard	Agassiz and other Fellowships, Assistantships	The Director
Kirkwood, Indiana	Assistantships (\$1000) and fellowships	The Director

Observatory	Type of post	Application to be made to
Leander McCormick	No formal Fellowships, but help might be found in special cases	The Director
Leiden	Temporary assistants. Possibly Fellowship from Government funds for promoting international contacts	The Director
Lick	Martin Kellogg Fellowships, \$900 to \$1500 a year. Two Lick Obs. Fellowships \$900 a year	The Dean of Graduate Division, University of California, Berkeley, before Feb. 20 for award starting July 1
Liège Institut d'Astrophysique	One Research Fellowship (at present filled). American astronomer may get help under Belgian American Educational Foundation	—
Michigan	Two part-time Research Assistantships (\$1200 for nine months). Visits of Professors in summer term	The Director
Mount Wilson and Palomar	Post-doctorate Fellowships and Fellowships for students. Not till after summer of 1948. Details not yet available	—
Ottawa	Assistantships for summer months	Civil Service Commission, Jackson Building, Ottawa
Oxford and Radcliffe	Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship	Is advertised when vacant. Next vacancy October 1948
Oxford	Skyner Senior Studentship for student working for a research degree	The Master, Balliol College, Oxford
Paris	Studentships provided by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (exchange preferred)	The Director
Perkins	Fellowships of Ohio State University	The Director
Stockholm	No formal fellowships, but help might be found in special cases	The Director
Uccle	Belgian American Educational Foundation for countries with cultural agreements with Belgium. Apply Minister of Education of applicant's country	420 Sixth Avenue, N.Y.
Utrecht	Assistantships (exchange preferred)	The Director
Victoria	Research Fellowship in Astrophysics (temporary)	The Director
Warner and Swasey	Research Fellowship	Case Institute of Technology, East Cleveland, Ohio
Yerkes and McDonald	Post-graduate Research Fellowships, assistantships	The Director, Yerkes Observatory

Applications should give full qualifications of candidate and in case of University Observatories should state whether the student wishes to register for graduate courses or courses towards one of the higher degrees.

4. The Commission have already been able to help several times and are considering further cases. In all applications for grants they would wish to know: (1) that facilities detailed in section 3 have been explored where suitable; (2) how much further assistance would be required to meet travelling expenses or to make it possible for a candidate to make use of an offer from another observatory; and (3) whether the Committee can help to facilitate an exchange in any way other than by financial aid.

5. The sums made available by U.N.E.S.C.O. for 1947 and 1948 have been paid or allotted to meet the following cases:

- (a) a Polish astronomer for six months' work at St Andrews Observatory, Scotland;
- (b) a Chinese astronomer, at Arosa, Switzerland;
- (c) a Finnish astronomer, at Delft, Netherlands;
- (d) an Italian astronomer to take up a fellowship at the Warner and Swasey Observatory, Cleveland, U.S.A.;
- (e) a Polish astronomer, in U.S.A., mainly at Yerkes Observatory;
- (f) a Chinese astronomer, to work in Greenwich, England, and to take up a fellowship at Radcliffe College, Harvard, U.S.A.;
- (g) an exchange between a Dutch astronomer at Paris and Haute Provence, France, and two French astronomers at Utrecht, Netherlands.

No further grants can be made until a decision is reached by U.N.E.S.C.O. as to a grant for 1949.

F. J. M. STRATTON  
*President of the Commission*

*Report of meeting. Saturday, August 14, 1948. 9.30 a.m.*

PRESIDENT: Prof. F. J. M. STRATTON.

SECRETARY: Dr W. H. VAN DEN BOS.

Dr van den Bos was appointed Secretary; 28 members were present.

The President opened the meeting and gave some supplementary details to the Draft Report. These are now included in the final report printed in this volume.

Prof. Minnaert was of the opinion that the work done has been of great value, that with a minimum of expense a maximum effect had been obtained and that activities on these lines should continue. Even if no funds were available, the Commission might still give useful assistance in other ways.

Prof. Vonwiller remarked that visits to Australia and South Africa are greatly desirable, but realized that these would involve considerable expense.

The President drew attention to the passing of the Fulbright Act in the U.S.A., which may be helpful to the Commission's activities.

Prof. Lindblad moved, and Prof. Minnaert seconded the passing of the report, as supplemented. (Carried.)

Prof. Stratton explained the necessity for the President having authority to take quick action in individual cases. Prof. Lindblad supported this and expressed the wish that the President should notify members from time to time of the actions he has taken. (Agreed.)

The President then invited opinions on the type of case to take precedence: (1) a young, partly trained astronomer; (2) a proved, experienced man who could be expected to perform work of greater value for astronomy. Some members pointed out that in the case of a powerful, understaffed telescope, type (2) is greatly to be preferred. Others stated that in the case of poor countries lacking facilities for thorough training, type (1) becomes of the greatest importance.

The President explained that, of the nine persons assisted so far, five may be considered of type (1), and four of type (2). The general opinion of the members was that a similar judicious balance should continue.

Dr Jackson suggested that Directors of Observatories having large but inadequately staffed telescopes be circularized. (Agreed.)

Dr Goldberg mentioned that Prof. Rossiter will retire in 1951 and that suggestions will be welcomed at Michigan.

Dr Luplau Janssen stated that salaries are not always continued during a scientist's absence abroad and that this ought to be done. The President answered that the Commission has no power to give orders to authorities responsible for payment of salaries. The Committee expressed the hope that in the case of exchange a full salary would be paid to a visiting astronomer.

The President invited suggestions as to how we can augment the funds available. Prof. Shapley stated that Prof. Bok has made great efforts to raise funds in the U.S.A. Dr Douglas mentioned that Canada plans to spend about \$180,000 on grants to visiting fellows (up to \$3000 per person) and Dr Pearce advised that applications from astronomers to work at Victoria or Ottawa be sent to Dr C. S. Beals, Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, and to work at Toronto to Dr F. S. Hogg, David Dunlap Observatory, Toronto.

Prof. Minnaert proposed and Prof. Lindblad seconded that the Commission also ask for a grant of \$500 from I.A.U. funds in addition to the grant that may be received from U.N.E.S.C.O. (Agreed.)