

5. COMMISSION DES ANALYSES DE TRAVAUX ET DE BIBLIOGRAPHIE

Report of Meeting, 23 August 1967

PRESIDENT: J. Kleczek.

VICE-PRESIDENT and SECRETARY: J. B. Sykes.

The Commission met at 8^h 45^m under the chairmanship of J. Kleczek.

The Draft Report and the Report of the Working Group were approved.

Ogorodnikov presented a new draft of several sections of part 52 (Astronomy) of the Universal Decimal Classification, prepared with the collaboration of several Soviet observatories and institutions. Copies are to be supplied to members of the Commission and Working Group for comment prior to submission to the Fédération Internationale de la Documentation.

The loss of two deceased members of the Commission (Baldet and Dermul) was noted with regret. The following proposals for membership were accepted, subject to approval by the Executive Committee: Aoki, Chandrasekhar, Dewhirst, Heintz, Wempe, and the following as Consulting Members: Dunn, Feuillebois, Kemp, Lavrova, Radlova, Ščerbina-Samojlova. The proposal that Sykes should be the next President and *Ogorodnikov* the next Vice-President was accepted.

Sykes proposed that the title of the Commission should be changed to the more contemporary one of 'Commission for Documentation' (in French, Commission de Documentation), and it was agreed that such a request should be made to the Executive Committee.

Ogorodnikov described a proposal to make the Astronomy section of the Russian abstract journal *Referativnyj žurnal* available in English at a cost of the order of \$1 per month in a total time of as little as six months following the publication of the original articles abstracted. This proposal will be circulated to Members of the Union and members of the Working Group after further discussions with VINITI (the U.S.S.R. Scientific & Technical Information Institute).

Two letters were read, one from *F. G. Smith* concerning the appearance of a new journal which some astronomers considered redundant, and suggesting the listing of major astronomical journals and their principles of operation; the other from *McNally*, suggesting (1) a current-awareness journal for astronomy, (2) a survey of astronomical publications and the use made of them, and the possibility of publishing only abstracts of some papers, (3) a consideration of the feasibility of automatic data retrieval in astronomy.

These suggestions led to considerable discussion at this and the second meeting (see below). *Steinberg* commented that the *Annales d'Astrophysique* is already publishing abbreviated papers with full versions available on demand. *Sykes* stated that a study of the use made of astronomical publications was already in progress at the University of Leicester (U.K.). The preparation of a list of primary publications dealing with astronomy is already under consideration by the ICSU Abstracting Board (Draft Reports, p. lxxv). The existence of the lengthy list by *Feuillebois* in *Transactions IAU*, 12C, 76–95 was also mentioned.

Wempe stated that the late Dr. Schneller's *Geschichte und Literatur des Lichtwechsels der veränderlichen Sterne* was to be published (3rd edition) and continued at the Institute for Stellar Physics (Potsdam and Sonneberg) but that it would not be possible to send copies on exchange as hitherto. A recommendation that the work should be available on subscription would be sought by resolution from Commissions 5 and 27 jointly.

Wempe put forward the view that the rejection of the abbreviation of 'magnitude' as 'mag' when representing a difference in values (*Transactions IAU*, 12C, 109) was not justified, and called attention to the analogy with the abbreviations for units of time (e.g. 12^h, 12 hours) and temperature (e.g. 10°, 10 deg).

Second meeting, 23 August 1967

The Commission and the Working Group met at 10^h30^m under the chairmanship of J.B. Sykes. *Velghe* reported on the poor response (50 acceptances out of 650 notifications) to an offer by the Observatoire Royal de Belgique to publish the *Bibliography of Astronomy 1881–1898* [Bibliographie générale de l'astronomie] in 9 volumes at \$ 125 the set, for orders received by 1 August. It was agreed that he should send one further reminder to those who had not replied, extending the closing date to 1 December. If this did not produce the necessary 250 to 300 subscriptions, *Steinberg* suggested that the slips (numbering 52166) might be microfilmed.

Velghe described the possibilities concerning the re-publication of *Les observatoires astronomiques et les astronomes*. It was noted that Professor T.L. Page is now editing an annual *Observatories of the World* listing main instruments and projects, and that this (with perhaps an extended listing of instruments) would take care of these topics, while *Les observatoires* could give locations, addresses, and names of staff, on loose sheets (one per institution) revised as appropriate, with occasionally revised name indexes. *McNally* asked for a standard form of inquiry to facilitate replies. *Velghe* undertook to investigate collaboration with Page on the compilation of these works.

Feuillebois described the Working Group of the Commission and its relation to the astronomical section of the International Federation of Librarians' Associations. She commented on the points proposed for discussion (*Draft Reports*, p. lxxvi–lxxviii), and a discussion followed on problems of (1) transliteration of the Cyrillic alphabet, (2) abbreviations of periodical titles, (3) observatory publication policy, (4) multiplication of journals, (5) the desirability of asking publishers of astronomical journals to include copies of the abstract of each article on cards (as proposed by the Belgian National Committee for Astronomy), (6) the prospects for a current-awareness journal in astronomy on the lines of *Current Papers in Physics*, and (7) the possibilities of mechanising the abstracts journals in astronomy.

The conclusions arrived at were as follows:

(1) The Union should adhere to the recommendation (already given in *Transactions IAU*, 12C 68–69/113–115) for the use of the ISO system of transliteration in international matters, but should not seek to impose it for use within a country where a system easier to type and pronounce is in favour. In this and other matters pertaining to the *IAU Style Book* the Commission should be consulted at the drafting stage.

(2) The ISO revised recommendation on the abbreviation of periodical titles should be awaited. The recent appearance of a British Standard (4148:1967) on the subject was noted. The matter is also under consideration by the ICSU Abstracting Board.

(3) Observatories should be encouraged to reduce the number of publication series, but it was recognised that a variety of forms is often unavoidable. The survey being conducted by Mme van de Poll de Lange (Leiden Observatory) is still in progress, and a notice will be placed in the *Information Bulletin* asking those who have not yet responded to do so.

(4) It was accepted that the increasing volume of astronomical publications must result in an increased charge on libraries and that only a trend towards publication in abbreviated form could reduce this.

(5) Some librarians were in favour of ready-made abstract cards, but the possible effect of providing these on prices of journals was also pointed out.

(6) Little enthusiasm was shown for the production of a current-awareness journal in astronomy or the feasibility of doing so as a large-scale undertaking (but see the report of the fourth meeting, below).

(7) It was felt that the abstracts journals, and in particular the *Astronomischer Jahresbericht*, were fully aware of the possibilities of mechanisation and were still being held back by lack of abstracting staff and some delays in receipt of publications.

Third meeting, 23 August 1967

The Commission met (in parallel with the second meeting) at 10^h30^m under the chairmanship of J. Kleczek.

The use of Esperanto in astronomical publications was discussed. The following proposal was made by the Commission: "The editors of astronomical journals are asked to afford authors the opportunity of including with their articles summaries in Esperanto".

Fourth meeting, 24 August 1967

The Working Group held an informal meeting at 10^h30^m.

Topics (5), (6) and (7) were further discussed.

It was agreed that the possibility of a rapid supply of cards bearing bibliographical details of published articles and observatory publications (current-awareness service) should be investigated both with VINITI and with Feuillebois' Paris project. Should this project not be feasible, journal editors should be approached to ascertain their willingness to include abstract cards, in accordance with the (in itself excellent) proposal by the Belgian National Committee.

It was resolved that the Commission should give every encouragement to abstracts journals in whatever progress these could make in automating their work.

Kulikovskij answered questions concerning the occasional omission of papers from the *Referativnyj žurnal* and the varying estimates of delay between publication of an original paper and the appearance of an abstract in the *Referativnyj žurnal*. *Heintz* urged that the Commission should once more reiterate the resolution that authors should send one copy of every publication to each of the abstracting services (*Transactions IAU*, **11B**, 91).

The question of a change of name for the Working Group consequent upon the proposed change in the title of the Commission was discussed, and it was decided that the name Working Group of Astronomical Librarians (Groupe de travail des bibliothécaires astronomiques) should be adopted. This does not imply that, for example, representative editors of astronomical journals and abstracts journals would be excluded from the group.