

THE ASTRONOMICAL PUBLICATIONS IN CHINA

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1. INTRODUCTION

At present there are three different kinds of astronomical publications in China: journals, observatory publications and special publications.

Four journals are issued regularly: *Acta Astronomia Sinica*, *Acta Astrophysica Sinica*, *Progress in Astronomy and Astronomy Amateur*. There are five observatory publications available: Publications of Beijing Astronomical Observatory, Publications of Purple Mountain Observatory, Publications of Shannxi Astronomical Observatory, Publications of Yunnan Astronomical Observatory and *Annals of Shanghai Observatory, Academia Sinica*. Also several special publications have been published regularly, i. e. *Chinese Solar-Geophysical Data (CSGD)*, *Monthly Solar Activity*, *Time and Frequency Services Bulletin*, *Time Service Annual Report*, etc.

Most of these publications were established after the late 1970's, except *Acta Astronomia Sinica* and *Astronomy Amateur*. This shows, from one side, that Chinese astronomy has been making rapid progress since then.

Of course, Chinese astronomers may contribute their papers to general journals, such as *Scientia Sinica*, *Science Bulletin* and *Chinese Journal of Space Science*, etc. The 292 papers published (1973-1987) in these three journals are about 10% of the total number of papers in the above astronomical publications.

In the second section, the three kinds of astronomical publications are described, and a statistical summary of 2965 papers published in the past 35 years (1953-1987) is given.

In the final section, the future of astronomical publications in China is presented briefly.

2. PUBLICATIONS

The formal names of publications, the date of establishment, the numbers of papers and the editors of publications are given in Tables 1, 2, 3. A statistical summary of papers published in 1953-1987 is given in Fig. 1. These data have been collected from journals and observatory publications as well as three general journals: *Scientia Sinica*, *Science Bulletin* and *Chinese Journal of Space Science*.

It is obvious that more than 300 papers have been published annually in these publications during 1984-1987. This number is ten times as large as in the 1950's. A gap appears in Fig. 1 for the period of 1967-1971. Although the statistical data may be incomplete, we are sure that it shows the rapid growth in Chinese astronomy during the past decade.

Table 1. Journals (up to 1987)

Formal Name	Date of Establishment	Regular Intervals	Total Issues	Papers	Editors
1. <i>Acta Astronomica Sinica</i>	1953	quarterly*	71*	>843*	The Chinese Astronomical Society
2. <i>Acta Astrophysica Sinica</i>	1981	quarterly	28	~260	The Editorial Staff
3. <i>Progress in Astronomy</i>	1983	quarterly	18	300	The Editorial Board
4. <i>Astronomy Amateur</i>	1965**	monthly	158	-	The Editorial Staff

*Two issues per year before 1979; not including its supplements and those papers in the supplements; it ceased publication in 1967-1973

**It ceased publication in 1968-1978.

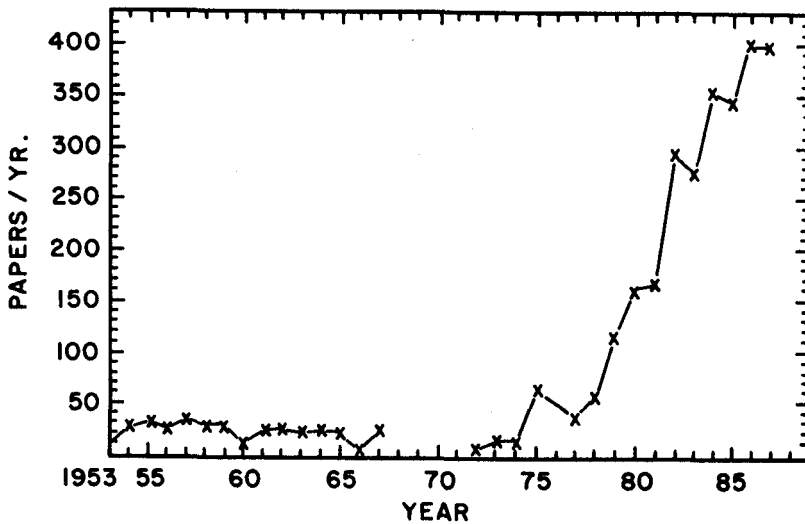


Fig. 1. A statistical summary of 2965 papers published in 1953-87. These data have been collected from 12 publications: 4 journals, 5 observatory publications and 3 general journals.

Table 2. Observatory Publications (up to 1987)

Formal Name	Establishment	Intervals	Total Issues	Papers	Editors
1. Publications of Beijing Astronomical Observatory	1972	irregularly		>258	Beijing Astronomical Observatory
2. Publications of Purple Mountain Observatory	1982	quarterly	24	194	The Editorial Committee
3. Publications of Shaanxi Astronomical Observatory	1978	irregularly	14	>168	The Editorial Committee
4. Publications of Yunnan Astronomical Observatory	1977	semi-annually	25	351	The Editorial Committee
5. Annals of Shanghai Observatory, Academia Sinica	1979*	annually	9	299	The Editorial Committee

*Before 1966, the formal name was Annals of Zō-Sè Observatory. It ceased publications in 1967-1978.

Table 3. Special Publications (up to 1987)

Formal Name	Establishment	Regular Intervals	Total Issues	Editors
1. Chinese Solar-Geophysical Data (CSGD)	1971	monthly		Editorial Group of CSGD, Beijing Astronomical Observatory**
2. Monthly Solar Activity	1981	monthly	84	Solar Physics Division Yunnan Astronomical Observatory
3. Time Service Annual Report*	1973	annually	15	First Division, Shanghai Observatory
4. Time and Frequency Services Bulletin	1979	monthly	99	Shaanxi Astronomical Observatory
5. Atomic Time Bulletin	1979	monthly	102	Time and Frequency Division, Shanghai Observatory
6. Chinese Astronomy Abstracts (CAA)	1987	quarterly		Editorial Board of CAA, Beijing Astronomical Observatory

*After 1984, the formal name is Annual Report (ERP).

**Purple Mountain Observatory, Yunnan Observatory and Beijing Geomagnetic Observatory also do some of the editorial work.

3. FUTURE

At present, most of the publications mentioned above are published in Chinese, which is very difficult for foreign astronomers to read. Therefore we believe that more and more publications should be published in English if it is possible to do so. It is worth pointing out that Dr. T. Kiang established the English-language Chinese Astronomy* in 1977, and since then a great number of papers published in *Acta Astronomica Sinica* and *Acta Astrophysica Sinica* have been translated into English. This journal promotes communication between astronomers of China and other countries. All Chinese astronomers are very grateful to him for his hard work. In the near future, we must pay great attention to the modernization of the printing process, especially to micro-computer controlled phototypesetting systems, for the purpose of speeding up the publication of Chinese astronomical papers.

Finally I am very thankful to all observatory editors for offering me many copies of their publications. Without their help I would not have been able to finish this work.

*After 1981: Chinese Astronomy and Astrophysics