

CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ASTRONOMIE

CAS/SCA NEWSLETTER, No. 3

June 1973

This newsletter differs from its two predecessors in that it is almost entirely concerned with Society business, whereas the others were designed to give information on the Hawaiian telescope project. Members will all know now that this project has been approved by the Canadian Government. The Society has passed a resolution welcoming this fact. The text, which has been released to the press, is appended at the end of this newsletter. Members present at Edmonton heard Dr. MacRae and Dr. Odgers speak about this project. In other respects also the Edmonton meeting was successful. Over 60 people attended, and over 20 papers were presented, as well as a very fine talk from Dr. D. C. Morton on observational results from the Copernicus satellite. Our thanks are due to all those who made the local arrangements for this meeting, especially Dr. D. P. Hube.

Future Meetings: The only meeting fixed for the future is the 1974 Annual Meeting which is also a joint meeting with CAP in St. John's, Newfoundland. This will be on June 11, 12, 13, with a Council meeting on June 10. The banquet on June 12 will be held jointly with CAP (as will all social functions). There will also be joint scientific sessions with invited papers on topics of special interest as well as the usual opportunities for contributed papers. Detailed planning with CAP is continuing.

The membership appears to be about equally divided on the question **whether** one meeting a year or two are preferable. Council has decided not to try to hold a second scientific meeting in this I.A.U. year, although Council itself will meet in the fall. In 1974 we will try to hold a fall meeting since we recognize that some people may be unable to travel to Newfoundland and would like to attend a meeting. A decision on the number and location of meetings in 1975 is still to be taken.

Constitution: All the constitutional amendments presented at the 1973 annual meeting have been adopted by the Society. At last we have a complete Constitution. No doubt as time goes on, alterations to Constitution and By-Laws will be found necessary, but the preoccupation with these matters that has been a feature of our early years is a thing of the past. Council has authorized the printing and distribution of the Constitution, By-Laws, and List of Members. The A.A.S. practice of printing members' telephone numbers seems to Council to be good. We would like to follow this practice and appeal to all members to send their telephone numbers (including area codes) to the Secretary. He would also like to know the postal codes of all those members who have been assigned them. Please send these two items of information as soon as possible to Dr. P. M. Millman, Astrophysics Branch, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0R8.

Committee Reports: The three committees that were in touch with you before the annual meeting have all reported to Council and have presented verbal reports to the Society at the meeting. Their reports are interim reports and it is not yet practicable to circulate written versions to all members. Council itself wants to study these reports, and may have more to say after its fall meeting. There are in these reports expressions of opinion by members which, even when they are somewhat critical, will be of great help in indicating to Council what members expect of the Society. One thing has come across clearly already, and that is the sense of isolation that those members feel who are in small astronomy departments scattered across the country. Several suggestions have been made on how to alleviate this: a summer school, a CAS lecture tour (modelled on the CAP lectures), the formation of an institute of astronomy. All of these projects are expensive, and the last is beyond our means --- the best we can do for that is to study and make recommendations. There is a clear need for action of some kind, and Council has struck a budget committee to consider, among other things, how best to use the Society's financial resources to tackle this problem of isolation.

Communication within the Society: These Newsletters are the official medium of communication between the President (normally acting on behalf of Council) and the individual members. Another form of communication is the Information Circular issued by the Secretary and usually concerning routine matters such as meeting arrangements etc. Both of these are issued as need arises, often in something of a hurry. Some members have asked for something more regular and less formal --- modelled perhaps on the "David Dunlap Doings". Mindful of the problem discussed in a previous section, Council has approved an initial budget of \$200 for a quarterly publication of this type. An editorial team has been selected, but as not all the individuals have yet been approached, I cannot divulge names. When the editors approach you, please give them all the help you can. The experiment will be reviewed after some time, to see if it should be continued.

Language Policy: The Society has been criticized for its "psuedo-bilingual policy". Perhaps some criticism is justified, not so much for a "pseudo" policy as for a lack of any clearly defined policy at all --- apart from a general statement in the Constitution. On the other hand, at two of our three meetings several papers have been presented in French. Council has considered this problem and has now formulated a policy.

In each of the three means of communication mentioned in the last section, contributions will be printed in whichever of the two official languages they are received. Council will neither undertake nor provide translations, except for basic documents such as the Constitution and By-Laws.

The effect of this policy is that in the new publication the proportion of the two languages will reflect precisely the degrees of interest that astronomers speaking them take in the publication. The Newsletters and Circulars will normally come to all members in the first language of the individuals holding the offices of President or Secretary respectively (or of the individuals writing them at the request of these

officers). In this way, the claims of both official languages will be recognized over the long term.

The reasons for this policy are that translation is always time-consuming, costly if done professionally, and imposing a great burden on the few members of sufficient linguistic ability if done by the Society itself. Finally, the qualifications for membership are such, that virtually all members can read both languages. Translation either way, therefore, is not really necessary.

Some committees have communicated with each member in his own language. Council recognizes this as the ideal of courtesy, and does not discourage any committee with the time and competence from aiming for this ideal.

Air Travel to Sydney for the I.A.U.: Council has given up the attempt to arrange group travel to the I.A.U. but draws the attention of members to CP Air's "Individual Inclusive Tour". Subject to conditions on his length of stay, and prepayment of land expenses, an individual can travel from Sydney to Vancouver for less than \$100 more than a group of 15 or more. (i.e. less than \$700 return). Consult your local travel agent or CP Air office). Dr. MacRae can provide the name of a Toronto travel agent familiar with this arrangement.

A. H. Batten

**CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ASTRONOMIE**

News Release

The President and Council of the Canadian Astronomical Society, meeting at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, on May 11, 1973, and speaking on behalf of the professional astronomers of Canada, enthusiastically welcome the recent announcement by the Government of Canada that it will join with the Government of France and the State and University of Hawaii in the construction of an optical telescope of 3.6 metres aperture, to be located at the summit of Mauna Kea, Hawaii. This instrument will be a powerful new tool for Canadian astronomers enabling many of them for the first time to participate in observational work at the exciting frontiers of the rapidly expanding field of astronomical research.

This statement was unanimously endorsed by those members present at the Society's 1973 annual meeting in Edmonton.