

6. COMMISSION DES TELEGRAMMES ASTRONOMIQUES

PRÉSIDENT: Dr A. R. Hogg, Mount Stromlo Observatory, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia.

VICE-PRÉSIDENT: Dr F. L. Whipple, Director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

DIRECTEUR DU BUREAU: M. K. A. Thernøe, Universitets Observatoriet, Østervoldgade 3, Copenhagen-K, Denmark.

MEMBRES: Buchar, Cunningham, Finsen, Martynov.

The Commission has discussed by correspondence the possibility of changes in the work and methods of the Bureau.

There is a general feeling amongst members of the Commission that the work of the Bureau, which is valuable and important to astronomers in general, is carried out smoothly and efficiently. No great changes appear to be necessary in the general scheme and this is in no small measure due to the efforts of the Director of the Bureau, Mr K. A. Thernøe, and the facilities afforded to him by Prof. A. Reiz, Director of the Copenhagen Observatory. A detailed report of the activities of the Bureau has been prepared by Mr K. A. Thernøe.

A. R. HOGG
President of the Commission

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BUREAU FOR ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS

The activities of the Central Bureau since 1961 have developed along traditional lines. The number of subscribers to telegrams and circulars, and to circulars only, has continued to rise, namely from 73 to 85 and from 158 to 242, respectively. Pleasing as is this rise, it calls for a correspondingly increased amount of clerical work at the Bureau, but nevertheless it has been possible to keep the subscription fees at the usual low level owing to the subsidies received from the International Astronomical Union and the Danish Rask-Ørsted Foundation.

The Bureau tries its best to meet the various desires. A few subscribers to telegrams wish to have all news transmitted while most subscribers wish only first positions of comets and first notices of novae conveyed telegraphically, due allowance being made, of course, for visibility and restrictions as to magnitude etc.

While originally all subscriptions were ordered directly from the Central Bureau and considered continuous, unless specifically cancelled, some subscribers now order the circulars (or telegrams) through some local agency. As a rule such arrangement is not to the advantage of the subscriber, besides giving the Bureau some extra clerical work. For the said book agencies cannot be expected to understand in detail the workings of the service given by the Bureau and often do not renew the subscription in due time. Gaps in mailing of the circulars to the subscribers in question or other irregularities are likely to occur, so much correspondence is needed between the Bureau on the one hand and the subscriber and book agency on the other. The Bureau would therefore highly appreciate if subscribers would deal direct with us as much as possible.

As to the more scientific work involved in the activities of the Bureau we have been greatly helped by astronomers not attached to the Copenhagen Observatory, primarily the British Astronomical Association computers, but also by many others, for example in Czechoslovakia, U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.

Below are given the number of telegrams received and transmitted to the subscribers, together with the number of circulars issued, all in the period since the report in *Trans. IAU*, Vol. XI, i.e. from 1 January 1961 to 31 December 1963:

	Telegrams		Circulars
	Received	Sent	
1961	43	495	39 (1748-1786)
1962	26	223	24 (1787-1810)
1963	43	685	39 (1811-1849)
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	112	1403	102

K. A. THERNÖE
Director of the Bureau