



"EDITORIAL"

Canadians for the Back of the Moon

A working group of the I.A.U. has been assigned the task of naming features on the far side of the moon for famous (deceased) astronomers. The different countries have been asked to submit lists of names from which a choice will be made. Being a member of a small committee charged with submitting Canadian names, I have been thinking of some of our late colleagues who made notable contributions.

Probably the first professional Canadian Astronomer was Brydone Jack, Professor of Astronomy of the University of New Brunswick in the 1840's and 50's. He and Bond of Harvard were among the first to use the telegraph to determine longitude, and they thus succeeded in settling the Maine-N.B. border dispute. Jack also founded the first Canadian Observatory at Fredericton.

In a way we can claim the great Simon Newcomb - he was Canadian born (Wallace, N.S., 1835). However, as a young man he wandered south and eventually found fame, if not fortune, in the U.S. Navy at Washington Observatory. The famous S.A. Mitchell, of eclipse fame was also Canadian born (Kingston, 1874) and educated (M.A., Queens, 1894).

William Frederick King was the first Canadian government astronomer. A government land surveyor (1872), then Chief Inspector of Surveys, and finally (in 1890) Chief Astronomer, he was the founder and first director of the Dominion Observatory (1903-5).

One of King's early appointments to his staff was John Stanley Plaskett, who first became interested in pure science while foreman of the U. of T. Physics workshop in the 1890's, quit his job to take the M. and P. course in the class of 1899. He went to Ottawa in 1902 and, with some other diligent spectroscopists, had pretty well worked the 15-inch telescope out of stars by 1910. By 1913 he had persuaded the government to commission a 72-inch telescope for a new observatory at Victoria. With this (then the world's largest) telescope he made his

famous galactic structure studies with the collaboration of such colleagues as the late W. E. Harper.

Our own Clarence Augustus Chant (irreverently but affectionately known to some of us as Gussie) was a contemporary of Plaskett. First a junior physicist at the University, an early experimenter with such novelties as Hertzian waves and X-rays, he soon became interested in astronomy, founded the Department in 1904, the Observatory in 1935, edited the J.R.A.S.C. and Handbook for 50 years, and was much loved for his kindness and Victorian courtliness and greatly respected for his skill as teacher, writer and administrator.

Among Chant's students was Frank Scott Hogg who headed the Department and directed the Observatory from 1946 until his untimely death in 1951, not only with dedication and skill but also with an engaging sense of whimsy and humour.

Among the more recent Victoria astronomers who surely deserve a place on the moon are Andrew McKellar for his work on molecules in stellar atmospheres and comet tails, and Robert Methven Petrie for his contributions to radial velocities, spectroscopic binaries and galactic structure.

Other scientists than Astronomers may be included on the moon, especially if they have had astronomical leanings, and the Canadian Committee is considering submission of the names of Sir Sandford Fleming of Toronto, founder of standard time, and John Stuart Foster, Professor of Physics at McGill, who pioneered observations of the Stark effect in stellar atmospheres.

J. F. H.

The 74-inch

Gerry Longworth, Dave Earlam and Archie Ridder had another session with the big (old) aluminizing chamber during the week of August 19 and coated the Cass. secondary of the 74-inch, the tertiary mirror for the photometer focus and all but one of the mirrors of the grating spectrograph. This should do something by way of speeding up the observing and offsetting the poor skies which we have been having this summer.

The glass enclosure for the top of the staircase in the big dome has been finished. Its main purpose is to cut down on air circulation on the observing floor.

New Aluminizing Equipment

Edwards Hi-Vac have the new stack of pump, baffles and valves for the big chamber nearly ready for delivery. When that comes there will be a good deal of work to do on the old tank to install the new equipment and clean up and modify the tank itself. Meanwhile the smaller vacuum chamber, for mirrors up to 30 inches, has been received, along with pumps etc., and the plumbing involved in that assembly is going ahead in the corner of the carpentry shop.

Image Tubery

Dr. Jeffers, now operating in the clock room, has had the image tube operating "on the bench" for the past week or so and is now about to mount it at the Nasmyth focus of the 24-inch for further testing and direct photography trials on the sky. It would seem that, in view of an image tube's great efficiency in the red, problems concerned with H α emission (e.g. HII regions) could be successfully attempted. Has anyone specific ideas for programs? All this is pending the acquisition of a spectrograph suitable for image tubery - a problem to which Dr. Garrison is currently addressing himself.

Logistics

The Observatory water supply is being maintained with difficulty, the pump back at Bayview Avenue having all but given up after 35 years of service. It is understood that a new one is to be installed by the Superintendent's Department.

Papers submitted during August

S. van den Bergh

Associations of Reflection Nebula and
Local Galactic Structure

August Seminars Revised

On August 12, Dr. John G. Bolton, Director of the Parkes Observatory, gave a Seminar on the Campus on "Recent Work at the Parkes Observatory"

In place of Peter Hagen's scheduled talk on August 14, Dr. Fernie presented his talk on "Classical Cepheids and Galactic Structure" originally scheduled for today, and Bob Chambers is to give his talk on "Cosmological Models with Long Ages" today.

September Seminars

Sept. 4
Special "Countdown" Dr. M. P. Fitzgerald of Waterloo,
"MHC 328-16 - an Unusual Emission Object"

Sept. 11
Special "Countdown" Doug Hube, "The Distribution and Kinematics
of the late B-type Stars".

Sept. 25
Special "Countdown" Inge Sackmann, "The Structure and Evolution
of Rotating Stars".

In addition it is probable that there will be a talk on Sept. 18 or 20 by Dr. David Crawford of Kitt Peak Observatory.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Dr. Garrison (with family) made a week-end trip to Yerkes Observatory on August 9-12, partly to see new developments in spectrographs.

Dr. Hogg and Dr. Fernie were preparing to attend an I.A.U. Conference on Variable Stars in Budapest between September 4 and 10. However, at the time of writing there are conflicting reports as to whether or not, in the present Czecho-Slovakian crisis, the Hungarian border is even open, and it is conceivable that the conference may be cancelled. A similar situation prevails regarding Dr. Roeder's proposed visit to the U.S.S.R. in September to attend a conference on cosmology.

Delegates at the A.A.S. meeting in Victoria included Dr. Hogg, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Clement, Dr. Seaquist, Doug Hube and Tom Clarke. Papers were presented by Dr. Seaquist on "Radio Emission from Hare's Blue Galaxies", by Dr. Clement on "Differential Rotation in Upper Main Sequence Stars" and by Doug Hube on "The Origin of Late B-type Stars in the Galaxy".

Raymonde Verreault spent three weeks this summer at the Brandeis Summer Institute for Theoretical Physics at Waltham, Mass.

Final Ph.D. Orals

These are scheduled as follows:

September 19 at 3 p.m. Doug Hube on "The Distribution and Kinematics of the late B-type Stars".

September 26 at 2 p.m. Inge Sackmann on "The Structure and Evolution of Rotating Stars".

Visitors

Dr. John Bolton of Parkes Observatory visited the Department Aug. 12-13.

Werner Ehm and Margaret Falconer visited the Observatory together on August 21. Mr. Ehm is a student of our former colleague, Prof. Peter Wellmann, in Munich, and Miss Falconer is a granddaughter of the late Sir Robert Falconer, President of the University in the '20's and early '30's.

Personal and Miscellaneous

Dr. and Mrs. Schmitt are the happy parents of Catherine, born on August 22 at York Central Hospital.

Recently in hospital have been Miss Northcott (Western) and Peter Hagen (St. Michael's).

During a visit to her home in Dunstable, Mass. during August, Mrs. Hogg spent a few days at Maria Mitchell Observatory, Nantucket, working on a plate collection and giving a public lecture on "The Lure of Variable Stars in Globular Clusters".

Raymonde Verreault is engaged to be married to Mr. George Chimonas who is a Ph.D. student in Physics here.