



EDITORIAL

William T. Sharp

Early this month the University suffered the untimely loss of a valuable and well-liked member of the teaching staff as a result of a mountaineering accident in British Columbia. William T. Sharp, Professor of Mathematics and Associate Dean of Arts and Science, was climbing with the Canadian Alpine Club when he and a companion were knocked off a ledge by falling ice.

Bill Sharp was well known to some of us as early as the summers of 1945 and 1946 when, while an undergraduate, he was employed as an assistant at the Observatory. He had come to Canada during the war on the schoolboy refugee plan and stayed to enroll in the M and P course at the University of Toronto in the early 40's. At that time Dr. Frank Hogg was giving the second-year astronomy course, and, being particularly impressed by the ability of two of the students, he persuaded Dr. Young to offer them summer employment. One was Bill Sharp, the other was George Duff, now Chairman of the Department of Mathematics.

Bill was a lanky, rather clumsy boy with tremendous energy and enthusiasm and a brilliant mind. As an observer he had one fault, though. It was before we had an exposure meter on the spectrograph, and Bill was so optimistic about sky conditions and the "marvellous seeing" that he frequently under-exposed the plates in his efforts to get more spectrograms than anybody else - especially George Duff. I also remember a curious hobby which he had: during lunch hours and in the evenings he would lope down to the railroad tracks and copy the numbers of the freight cars of the long, steam-powered trains that puffed their slow way up the grade. He explained that he was a member of a club whose members exchanged this sort of information.

After his doctorate at Princeton Bill held positions in the Defence Research Board, Atomic Energy Ltd. and at the University of Alberta before returning to the Department of Mathematics here in 1963.

At a memorial service in Hart House on August 18th Bill's former college room-mate, now an Anglican Clergyman, sketched an attractive picture of Bill's character. Though they were poles apart in some things (Bill, he said, was a "conservative agnostic"), they remained always close friends. Bill's fascination with trains and rail traffic had been channelled into a crusade for a sensible transportation system to check the endless proliferation of motor traffic. (Bill didn't own a car until this year.) His boundless energy found an outlet in hiking and mountain climbing. His brilliant mathematical mind earned him a respected position among Canadian mathematicians.

A couple of months ago when Dr. Helen Hogg congratulated Bill on his success he said that it was her husband's encouragement which led him into an academic career. It is a pity that that career has been so tragically terminated.

J.F.H.

OBSERVING

Visual Region

Still another alternative spectral region has been added to the grating spectrograph of the 74-inch. A new grating of 1200 grooves/mm appropriately blazed gives a dispersion of 16 Å/mm in the visual region (4800-6800 Å) with IIAF plates. The system was tested and adjusted by Drs. Heard and Bolton. A new comparison source will be desirable, but the new system will soon be ready for use. Dr. Sanyal already has IIAF plates.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Locals attending the A.A.S. meeting at Michigan State Aug. 15-18 were Drs. Hogg, Garrison, Bolton, Walborn, Sanyal, Barry and Kathie Madore, Roslyn Shemilt, Dave Hanes and Bob Hawkins. Co-author of papers were Dr. Garrison (on "CBD-31°1701, a newly-discovered He-rich Subluminous O-star"), and Dr. Roeder and Bob Hawkins (with others, on "3C120, BL Lac and OJ 287").

Dr. van den Bergh returned last week from an observing session on the Palomar 48-inch Schmidt, losing only one night of eight and that not because of clouds but because of an unusual sand storm which caused fine dust to settle on the mountain.

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Drs. Garrison and van den Bergh will attend IAU Symposium No. 54 on "Problems of Calibration of Absolute Magnitudes and Temperatures of Stars" in Geneva, Sept. 12-15. Tom Bolton will attend IAU Symposium No. 51 on "Extended Atmospheres and Circumstellar Matter in Spectroscopic Binary Systems" near Victoria on Sept. 6-12.

SEMINARS

August

On the 16th, Hugh Ross spoke on "Radio Sources with Low Frequency Cut-off".

At a Spectroscopy Lunch on the 22nd, Austin Gulliver and Jack Winzer spoke on "Gulliver's Remarkable Ap star HD 51418".

IAU Colloquium No. 21 "Variable Stars in Globular Clusters and in Related Systems", is taking place Aug. 29-31.

September

No seminars have been arranged for September as yet.

PAPERS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION

C.T. Bolton - "Dimensions of the Binary System HDE 226868 = Cygnus X-1"

S. van den Bergh - "Planetary Nebulae, Globular Clusters and the Galactic Halo".

LETTERS

John Percy

A letter from John Percy who reports that the family is settled in excellent quarters at 8B Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge, England. John finds the Observatory facilities excellent, the staff friendly and helpful and the merging of the "old" observatories with IOTA into the Cambridge Institute of Astronomy very interesting. Mrs. Percy is settling in as a Post-doc at the ARC Institute of Animal Physiology.

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Ed Kennedy

A letter from J. E. "Ed" Kennedy who has just returned from a visit to the Maritimes where he tracked down some mid-18th century surveying instruments and continued with his research in the career of the early Canadian astronomer, Brydone Jack.

Goondiwindi Commemorates

A letter to the Director from Mr. Graham Todd, President of the Goondiwindi Historical Society which is planning to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the testing of the Einstein Theory at the Sept. 21, 1922 eclipse of the sun at Goondiwindi (in Queensland) by Sydney Observatory and at Wallal (in West Australia) by the University of Toronto. Mr. Todd asked for any literature which we could send. We sent copy of 27 pages from Dr. Chant's autobiography and of the paper by Dr. Young and him in Pub. D.A.O. for 1923 in which they analysed their results.

MISCELLANEOUS

Planetarium Directors

The Fourth International meeting of Planetarium Directors was held in Toronto during the week of July 23. The delegates visited the Observatory on the 23rd being received by Dr. and Mrs. MacRae and shown around by Gretchen Hagen who were, later in the day, guests of the Zeiss Company at their reception and dinner for the delegates.

Elected

Barry Madore has been elected to the Council of the School of Graduate Studies and will serve on its Executive Committee.

Bereaved

Our sympathy is extended to Dr. Seaquist whose father died in Vancouver on August 14.

Married

Philippe Teillet to Elaine Meyer in Ottawa on June 15.

Kayll Lake to Joanne Robyn in Toronto on August 12.

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Appointments

Dr. Peter Martin has reported for duty as Assistant Professor in Astronomy at Scarborough College. Dr. Martin graduated from U. of T. in 1968, earned his M.Sc. in 1969 and recently completed his doctorate at Cambridge.

Dr. Seaquist's appointment as Associate Chairman of the Department has been confirmed.

Louis Fortier, who is completing his Master's thesis at U.W.O. has been appointed part-time Lecturer at Scarborough College, the post vacated by Dr. Bolton who moves to Erindale as Assistant Professor.

Injured

Sheila Smolkin who only recently returned from a safari tour of East Africa with her husband had the misfortune to be involved in a motor accident en route to work on August 17. She suffered a cracked pelvis, has been discharged from hospital, but will have to learn to get around on crutches before returning to the library.

Examined

Chris Pritchett was successful in his Ph.D. general oral examination on August 4.

Invitations.

Dr. van den Bergh has been invited to give two lectures, one on September 25 to the Bohr Institute in Copenhagen on "The Hubble Constant", the other to the meeting of the High Energy Division of the A.A.S. in Pasadena, October 23-25, on "Evidence for Bursts of Star Formation Associated with Radio Explosions".

GASA officers

Graduate students have recently elected their new officers as follows:

President, Barry Madore; Vice-president, Bob Dupree;
Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Herbst; Graduate Student's Union Rep., -
Martin Duncan; Staff Meeting Rep., Dave Hanes.

Born

To Dr. and Mrs. Tony Moffat (M.Sc. 1966), a son, at Bochum, Germany.