

# THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*September 3, 1932*

After the Inaugural Ceremony the President, Sir Frank Dyson, delivered the following address.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to thank you for the honour you have conferred upon me in electing me as your President for this meeting of the International Astronomical Union. I am proud to be in succession to Baillaud, Campbell and de Sitter.

Let me in the first place give a hearty welcome to those astronomers whose countries are not officially connected with the Union. I am sure that we are all delighted that it is only financial considerations in these very trying times which have delayed the entrance of Germany and Austria to our Union. The General Secretary has received a letter from Dr Max Wolf in which he says that the German astronomers have constituted a national committee for entrance to the Union and that they will apply for admission as soon as the financial position permits such action. Dr Max Wolf had himself hoped to attend our meeting but his health does not permit him to do so. We are all very sorry not to have our distinguished colleague with us.

I will now ask you to stand for a few moments. In these four years we have suffered many losses by death.

Prof. Alliaume	General Ferrié
Miss Adelaide Ames	Prof. Gautier
Prof. Andoyer	Father Hagen
Prof. Angelitti	Prof. King
Dr Bauer	Dr Knobel
Mr Baxandall	Mr C. J. Merfield
Prof. Bigourdan	Dr Morize
Prof. Cosserat	M. Puiseux
Prof. R. H. Curtiss	M. Rodrigues
Dr Duffield	Prof. Turner
M. Fatou	Prof. Wolfer

Some of these, like M. Bigourdan, Father Hagen and Dr Knobel have died in the fulness of years, but others, like M. Andoyer, General Ferrié and Prof. Turner, we hoped to have with us for many years and we can ill spare them. We particularly wish to express our sympathy to Prof. Shapley and the staff of the Harvard Observatory on the tragic death of their gifted and charming colleague, Miss Adelaide Ames, who was the secretary of the local committee charged with the preparations for this meeting. We are mindful of the services to astronomy of all those we have lost and we shall keep them in affectionate memory.

In accordance with a resolution at the Leiden meeting the Executive Committee appointed the following committee to draft new statutes for submission to the General Assembly: Prof. de Sitter, Prof. Dugan, General Ferrié, Prof. Kamiński, Prof. Kimura, Prof. Lindblad, Father Rodés, Prof. Stroobant and the General Secretary. The Committee met at the Paris Observatory in July 1930, the absent

members having been consulted fully beforehand. A unanimous report was drawn up and the draft statutes duly circulated. These, together with certain amendments sent in by various countries, were submitted to an Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly held in London on September 19, 1931. Most countries forwarded their votes in writing. No amendments were carried. The draft statutes were approved in their entirety except on a few points, where there was a divergence of opinion—e.g. the scales of subscription and votes and the number of Vice-Presidents—and where the original statutes held good. The Executive Committee wish to express the thanks of the Union to the members of the Committee who prepared the revised statutes.

I am glad to report that India and the Vatican State have adhered to the Union. We are glad to have these accessions to our ranks. Unfortunately owing to financial stringency Australia and South Africa have withdrawn. We may hope that they will rejoin as times improve.

I am going to invite Dr Kopff, whom we are delighted to welcome as a representative of German astronomy, to address the Assembly.

DR KOPFF:

HERR PRÄSIDENT, MEINE DAMEN UND HERREN,

Wie Sie soeben gehört haben, ist vor einiger Zeit ein deutsches nationales Komitee gebildet worden, der *Ausschuss der deutschen Astronomen*, der sich die Angabe gestellt hat, den Eintritt der deutschen Astronomie in die Internationale Astronomische Union durchzuführen. Der Eintritt ist beschlossen worden; aus finanziellen Gründen allein hat er bisher nicht erfolgen können. Doch werden sich auch diese Schwierigkeiten hoffentlich bald überwinden lassen.

Ich habe den Auftrag, Ihnen die Grüsse des Ausschusses der deutschen Astronomen und aller deutschen Astronomen zu überbringen, insbesondere auch die Grüsse unseres verehrten Vorsitzenden Prof. Max Wolf. Er hat bisher die Verhandlungen über unseren Eintritt in die Union geführt, und zu unserem grossen Schmerz hat eine schwere Krankheit ihn verhindert, selbst hierher zu kommen.

Sie haben bereits zahlreiche deutsche Astronomen zu Mitgliedern in die verschiedenen Kommissionen gewählt, und Sie haben es uns dadurch ermöglicht, noch enger als bisher mit Ihnen zusammenzuarbeiten. Für diese Aufnahme in die Kommissionen möchte ich Ihnen besonders danken. Herzlich danken auch möchte ich Ihnen, Herr Präsident, für die freundlichen Worte, die Sie uns und vor allem unserem verehrten Prof. Max Wolf gewidmet haben.

Zu unserem lebhaften Bedauern ist es dieses Mal für uns nicht möglich gewesen, in grösserer Zahl in den verschiedenen Kommissionen anwesend zu sein. Aber als der einzige Vertreter aus Deutschland darf ich Ihnen wenigstens im Namen der deutschen Astronomen einen guten Erfolg für diesen Kongress wünschen.

The President then read a letter of greeting that he had received from Dr Hale, President of the International Council of Scientific Unions, and on his proposal it was unanimously agreed that telegrams of greeting and good wishes should be sent to Prof. Hale, Prof. Baillaud, President Campbell, Prof. de Sitter, Prof. A. Fowler and Prof. Max Wolf.

On the nomination of the Executive Committee it was agreed that Prof. C. Fabry be appointed a Vice-President of the Union in the place of the late Prof. Andoyer.

On the nomination of the Executive Committee it was agreed that Prof. E.

Esclangon and Prof. V. V. Heinrich be appointed Vice-Presidents for the meeting in the place of Prof. Fabry and Prof. Nušl who had been prevented from being present.

Dr Oort and Dr Van Biesbroeck were appointed Recorders for the meeting.

The Report of the Executive Committee was then presented by the General Secretary, who made reference to the changes in the statutes, the co-option by Commissions of members of countries not yet adhering to the Union: he also reminded members that the balance of money in hand at the end of the year 1931 was not effectively so large as appeared, as a considerable sum had already been allotted to printing for the *Carte du Ciel* though it had not yet been spent. He particularly asked the Presidents of Commissions to bear this in mind in forwarding applications for grants from their Commissions.

On the proposal of Prof. J. S. Plaskett seconded by Dr C. E. St John it was agreed to approve the action of the Executive Committee in appointing the President and Prof. Fabry as members of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions.

On the motion of Prof. Strömgren seconded by Prof. Leon Campbell it was agreed to approve the grants made by the Executive Committee since the year 1928 and referred to in the Report of the Executive Committee.

On the nomination of the Executive Committee it was agreed to appoint Prof. C. Fabry as a member of the Committee on Instruments and Methods of Research appointed by the International Council of Scientific Unions.

The following were appointed, on the nomination of the respective countries, to serve as the Finance Committee for the meeting:

<i>Argentine Republic</i>	Prof. B. H. DAWSON
<i>Belgium</i>	Dr DE ROY
<i>Canada</i>	Prof. CHANT
<i>Czechoslovakia</i>	Prof. HEINRICH
<i>Denmark</i>	Miss VINTER HANSEN
<i>France</i>	Prof. FAYET
<i>Great Britain</i>	Sir ARTHUR EDDINGTON
<i>Holland</i>	Dr MINNAERT
<i>India</i>	Dr KNOX-SHAW
<i>Italy</i>	Prof. SILVA
<i>Japan</i>	Prof. K. HIRAYAMA
<i>Poland</i>	Dr WITKOWSKI
<i>Portugal</i>	M. le COMTE DA COSTA LOBO
<i>Roumania</i>	Prof. DONITCH
<i>Spain</i>	Prof. CASTRO
<i>Sweden</i>	Prof. LINDBLAD
<i>Switzerland</i>	Prof. NIETHAMMER
<i>United States</i>	Mr D. B. PICKERING
<i>Vatican State</i>	Dr STEIN

On the nomination of the Executive Committee the following were appointed a committee to aid in the selection of members of standing Commissions for the next three years and to report to the Executive Committee: Prof. J. S. Plaskett (Convener), Dr W. S. Adams, Prof. J. Baillaud, Prof. Bianchi, Prof. Brunner, Prof. K. Hirayama, Dr Kopff and Prof. B. Lindblad.

The following amendment to the By-Laws proposed by Japan was carried *nem. con.*

By-Law II, 5: "Au lieu de 'Toute proposition soumise par un comité national d'Astronomie, ou par une commission de l'Union' lire 'Toute proposition soumise par un organisme adhérent, par un comité national d'Astronomie ou par une commission de l'Union.'"

The following resolution from the National Committee of Astronomy of Belgium was referred to Commission 5 for report to the General Assembly:

"Il est désirable de prendre des mesures pour combler la lacune qui subsiste dans la Bibliographie spéciale de l'Astronomie, entre la *Bibliographie générale* de J. C. Houzeau et A. Lancaster (s'arrêtant à l'année 1880) et la série des *Astronomische Jahresberichte* (commençant en 1899).

"Le Comité National de Belgique signale à ce sujet que M. Stroobant s'est déjà occupé du raccordement du 'Vade mecum de Houzeau (1882) à l'*Astronomische Jahresberichte*.'"

The following resolution from the National Committee of Astronomy of Holland was after a short discussion referred to Commission 3 with instructions that before reporting the Commission should ascertain the views of Commissions 20, 24, 26, 27, 28 and 30:

"It is proposed that the positions of stars in all new catalogues which are not catalogues of precision be referred to the equinox of 1900.0 or to another equinox which will be kept fixed during at least a century."

The General Assembly then adjourned to Thursday, September 8th, at 10 o'clock.