

PART 4

REPORTS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSIONS

COMPTES RENDUS DES SEANCES
DES COMMISSIONS

3. COMMISSION DES NOTATIONS, DES UNITES ET DE L'ECONOMIE DES PUBLICATIONS

Report of Meeting, 17 August 1961

CHAIRMAN: D. Barbier

SECRETARY: R. J. Northcott

The following members were present: J. B. Sykes, F. Zagar. The General Secretary, D. H. Sadler, was present for some of the discussion.

A letter was read from M. F. Subbotin, the President of the Commission, to the General Secretary. This advocated the dissolution of the Commission.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Professor O. Thomas suggested the standardization of the method of drawing the lines between stars in constellations. No seconder.

The discussion indicated that these lines are of some use to people when first learning the constellations, and that there is no need to require the lines always to be drawn in the same way.

2. Professor O. Thomas suggested the use of the metric light year (10^{13} km) as a unit of distance. No seconder. The members present felt this would complicate the units.

3. Professor J. Kleczek suggested the compilation of a glossary of astronomical terms. No discussion of this was necessary because Commission 5 has reported that such a list has now been published.

4. Professor M. F. Subbotin suggested that there is no need for the compilation of a new list of notations.

5. Professor M. F. Subbotin suggested the dissolution of Commission 3. This provoked considerable discussion. It was agreed that the Commission had been useful in the past, but that at present there was little action required by the Commission. Some members felt strongly that there was no need to dissolve the Commission at present, and that it could act as a co-ordinator for notations for other Commissions and Scientific Unions. It was agreed that the part of the title "Economy of Publications" does not represent the work of the Commission in practice.

A vote was taken on Professor Subbotin's suggestion for the dissolution of the Commission: in favour, 1; against 2, abstained, 1.

The General Secretary pointed out that the Executive Committee was anxious to simplify the work of the Union, and that decreasing the number of Commissions was one way of accomplishing this. The small attendance at this meeting was evidence of the decreasing usefulness of Commission 3.

After a short discussion concerning names proposed for the posts of President and Vice-President of the Commission, the meeting adjourned.

[Subsequently, the Executive Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Commission be dissolved; and this was agreed.]