

108 Roy Avenue, Apt. 102
 Derval, P.Q.
 November 26, 1964

Miss I. K. Williamson, Chairman
 Standing Committee for Observational Activities
 5162 Belmore Avenue
 Montreal 29, P.Q.

Dear Miss Williamson,

This is in reply to your letter of November 20, 1964 re: the S.C.O.A. As National Coordinator of the Comet and Nova Section, I have a few comments and suggestions on the suggested new system of issuing Bulletins.

I have no objections to the National Office editing and printing of the Bulletins, even though there may be a short delay in mailing. I welcome the wider distribution planned for the Bulletins, which could present a financial problem if handled by an individual. However, does the National Office plan to have only one standard mailing list for the Bulletins from all sections, or will each Coordinator send a copy of his own mailing list along with the copy of his Bulletin? Perhaps the National Office could have a standard list for all Bulletins, and have the individual Coordinators mail Bulletins to their own contacts.

Although reproduction of instruction and report forms may be done by the National Office, I feel that each Coordinator should keep his own supply of the forms. In order for a Coordinator to know what interest is being shown, he should receive all requests for information or forms.

As you know, the Comet and Nova Section issues "Announcements" at irregular intervals, listing information on bright Comets and Novae. Since time is an important factor in many cases, arrangements should be made to ensure fast preparing and mailing of Announcements.

Perhaps the preparing of "Announcements" should be taken out of the hands of the C & N Section Coordinator, and placed on a basis by itself. At the present time, "Announcements" are limited to reporting discoveries of bright comets or novae, but this could be extended to cover other astronomical news requiring fast action. Perhaps someone should be appointed to take charge of Announcements --- it being his responsibility to receive information, to decide what is important enough to warrant an announcement, and to print and mail them out.


At the present time, I subscribe to the "Harvard Announcement Cards" and the "Circulars of the British Astronomical Association" (both airmail), and I receive notices from Michael McCands via Dennis Milon of the Lunar and Planetary Lab., University of Arizona. These notices often reach me before the H.A.C.'s or Circulars. Although I receive these notices on an informal (and no charge) basis, I will ask Mr. Milon to send them to another address if the Society does decide to set up a system for "Announcements."

At the present time, I send at least one copy of each "Announcement" to each Centre, and to unattached members who have expressed an interest in the C & N Section. Possibly a system similar to this would continue with, perhaps, a larger mailing list. Perhaps we could adopt a system similar to that of the B.A.A.'s Circulars, and offer them to the members on a subscription basis. In this case, the Society could subscribe to the Harvard Telegraphic Service, and recover (at least part of) the cost. Please let me know what you think of the proposed "Announcement" System.

Re: the possibility of a printed supplement to the Journal. Perhaps each National Coordinator could prepare an annual summary for publication as a "Supplement." However, I wonder if it would be practical, or even desirable, to expect this to equal the high standards and formality of the "Journal." Perhaps it should take the form of an annual National "Newsletter." as a separate publication from the "Journal."

In conclusion, I wish to say that I will cooperate with any system you decide is best for the Observation Programme, and I will continue to do my best as National Coordinator of the Comet and Nova Section.

Best regards, and good observing,


Jim Lew, National Coordinator
Comet and Nova Section
S.C.O.A., R.A.S.C.