

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

PLANETARY SECTION

Bulletin No 5

February 8, 1963.

Since the last Bulletin was published, there has been much activity in the Planetary Section. Observations have been received from the Edmonton, Hamilton, Montreal, Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Toronto, and Windsor Centres, as well as from C. H. Clark of Lethbridge, Alta, and R. W. Gordon of Pen Argyl, Pa, U.S.A. Some of these observations are discussed below. I am enclosing extra copies of this Bulletin to be distributed to all who have contributed, plus a couple more to be circulated among "prospective customers". To those seeing this Bulletin for the first time, I will repeat that any suggestions for improving the effectiveness of it or of the Planetary Section as a whole will be most welcome.

JUPITER To date I have received 754 observations for 1962, a most encouraging total although not as good as last year's. The bulk of this work is from the Montreal Centre, but this should not detract from the fine contributions of the Ottawa and Windsor Centres and Mr Gordon. The following table gives some idea of the scope of these observations (d = drawings, t = central meridian transits, i = intensity estimates, c = conspicuousness estimates, s = timings of satellite phenomena; M = Montreal, O = Ottawa, W = Windsor):

	d	t	i	c	s	TOT		d	t	i	c	s	TOT
K. Brasch (M)	3	215	2			2 222	K. McNamara (M)	3			2		5
W. Cahill (M)		7			1	8	P. Moore (M)		53				53
F. DeKinder (M)	16	1		1		18	B. Neysmith (M)	2			2		4
W. Dey (O)	7	7	7	7		28	L. Pohjola (W)	1		1	1	1	4
L. Duchow (M)	2		1	1		4	R. Prezament (M)	3			3		6
G. Gaherty (M)		111	1	1	4	117	A. Rae (W)	6			6		12
R. Gordon	11	67				78	G. Wedge (M)	8	87		1	2	98
M. Hastings-Trew (W)	2		2			4	D. Zackon (M)	6	39	6	6		57
J. Low (M)	5	9	2		1	17	TOTAL	86	596	22	37	13	754

Not included in this table are the names of nine Montrealers and one Ottawan who contributed fewer than four observations, and a number of others from Edmonton and Montreal who made plottings of the positions of the four Galilean satellites. It is hoped that there are observations yet to be reported since our coverage of some parts of the apparition is sparse; observations during October and November are especially needed to document the latest S.E.B. disturbance.

OCCULTATIONS OF AND BY SATURN As was noted in the October Journal, Klaus Brasch and I succeeded in observing the occultation of the star B.D.-19^o5925 by Saturn. Since no other observations of this phenomenon were received, the results have been forwarded to the A.L.P.O. and the B.A.A. for analysis. The occultation of Saturn by the Moon on September 11 was observed by J. G. Craig and E. Ostrosser of the Hamilton Centre and H. MacLean of the Niagara Falls Centre. The observations of Craig and MacLean agree quite well and have been sent to the A.A.V.S.O.; Ostrosser had clock trouble.

MARS This planet is again in the evening sky, and every effort should be made to observe it in spite of its unfavorable aspect this year. Only a few observations have been received as yet. Drawings should be made in accordance with Instruction Sheet No 1. These should be accompanied where possible by intensity estimates and a separate drawing of the planet seen through a red filter (preferably a Wratten 25). The observer should not consult any maps during the apparition since these may influence his drawing.

Thanks for the letter & Mars obs. I think you're right on the date of the General Assembly.
Gaff

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