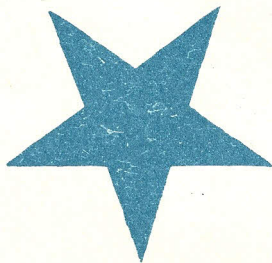




What have
houses
to do with
stars?



THE
TWELVE
HOUSES
OF
HEAVEN

FROM
EIGHT
TO
TWO
THOUSAND

THE NEED

The ancient astronomers, most of whom were astrologers as well, used to divide the celestial sphere into twelve equal parts, called *houses*. If a baby was born when Mercury was in the first house, his life would be happy and prosperous; but if Saturn was in the eleventh house he would be a coward and a pauper. Happily we students of the stars have left this kind of nonsense behind, but we are still sometimes concerned with houses. Right now the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is very much concerned with a particular house—one we are going to own.



In 1868 the first group of Canadian amateur astronomers, eight in number, formed the Toronto Astronomical Club. After that modest beginning the group expanded, obtained a charter in 1890, and in 1903 became "The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada" by permission of King Edward VII. Since 1903 the Society has spread across Canada from Halifax to Victoria. There are now 1600 Canadian members and 400 others scattered over the globe.



The need for permanent office space was recognized even in the Charter of 1890, which states that the Society may own "such property as may be needed for the aims and purposes of the said Society." A building fund was begun in 1910, but it did not keep pace with increasing property values, and no building

was ever acquired. During the past three years the Society's head office, the sixth since 1893, has been two small rooms in a house on Ross Street—hopelessly inadequate *either* to house all the library *or* to transact the volume of business done by the Society. Our National President, Dr. R. M. Petrie of Victoria, in his recent letter to members summed up our needs: "Our present quarters are quite inadequate and Council will not be satisfied until we have a home which is worthy of the size and prestige of a National Astronomical Society."



A
BUILDING
OF
OUR OWN

In January of this year, after consultation with competent business advisers, the Property Committee of the National Council recommended the purchase of a house at 252 College Street near the University of Toronto. An offer to purchase, signed by the National Treasurer on January 12th, was accepted.

This house provides, without alteration, four rooms well suited for the Society's office and library and four small self-contained suites for rental. For the first time we will have office space "worthy of the size and prestige" of our National Society.



THE COST

The total cost of the property is \$32,500. A minimum initial payment of \$12,500 must be made by March 1st. The Society can obtain a mortgage for the balance with the privilege of reducing the principal at any time without notice or bonus.

From the reserve and operating funds of the National Society we can muster \$13,000.



A NEW ERA

We believe that this new venture offers us an opportunity and a challenge to expand the services to the Centres—to unify and revitalize the Society. Should we not begin this new era with our headquarters completely paid for and furnished? To do so we will need \$22,000. We feel that we can obtain as much as \$10,000 from government sources and from foundations. But we must demonstrate to these groups that we are solidly behind the Society; we can do this only by contributing ourselves.



\$12,000

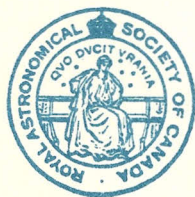
Let us therefore set our own sights at \$12,000. Already donations of \$2,000 and \$100 have been made by two generous members of the Society. Can we count on *you* to help too? Will you let your contribution reflect your means and your interest in this important undertaking? Will you send your contribution to the Treasurer before moving day, May 1st?



All contributions to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada may be claimed as Canadian income tax deductions.



THE NEW PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS OF YOUR SOCIETY





DESIGN • PLATE • PHOTOGRAPHY • AND PRINTING FOR
THIS PAMPHLET WERE CONTRIBUTED BY FRIENDS OF THE SOCIETY