

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE AAVSO
HELD AT NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS, ON
OCTOBER 14-15, 1977

The scheduled Friday evening lecture-meeting was called to order by President George Fortier at 8:15 P.m. He introduced the speaker, Dr. Carl Hammer, Director of Computer Sciences at Sperry-Univac Corporation, whose lecture was a statistician's delight, covering especially the application of computer techniques to the determination of possible periods for irregular variable stars. An interesting discussion followed Dr. Hammer's lecture, since much of the data he used was based on AAVSO observations. The meeting adjourned at about 10:30 p.m.

The Saturday morning business session was called to order at 9:40 a.m. October 15th. The Secretary's minutes of the May 1977 General Meetings were summarized by Mr. Ford, and duly approved. The President called for committee chairmen's reports, which were duly presented as follows (see elsewhere in this Journal for details):

Nova Search	Mr. Borzelli
Photoelectric Photometry	Mr. Landis
Eclipsing Binary & RR Lyrae	Mr. Baldwin
Standard Chart Distribution	Mrs. Mattei
New & Preliminary Charts	Mr. Ford
Telescopes	Mr. Scovil
Variable Star Atlas	Messrs. Ford & Scovil
Solar Division	Mr. Hossfield

The Treasurer's Annual Report for fiscal 1976-77 was summarized by Emeritus Director Margaret W. Mayall, and was duly approved after discussion. Details appear separately in this Journal.

The 1976-77 Annual Report of the AAVSO Director, Mrs. Janet A. Mattei, was highlighted by her reports of a 30% increase in special information requests over fiscal 1975-76, a commendation to Headquarters' Assistant Richard Strazdas for his work in streamlining the data processing, and the announcement of another annual record-high of 176,659 observations received in a total of 1,883 reports from observers during the year. Applause greeted the report, both for Mrs. Mattei and for her assistants. The detailed report is printed elsewhere in this Journal.

The official ballot tellers, previously appointed by the President, announced the following elected as new Council members for the term 1977-79:

Dr. Dorrit Hoffleit (CT)	M. Danie Overbeek (NY)
Howard J. Landis (GA)	Winston Wilkerson (NY)

Members then stood in respect while the names of 10 members deceased during 1976-77 were read by the Director:

Curtis Anderson, Charles Brownlee, William Cleaver, Kenneth Chilton, Charles Kratz, Alphonse Oberstatter, John Simpson, Charles Smiley, Harold Webb, Robert Woolsey.

Mrs. Mattei then read a list of new memberships approved by the Council at its meeting on October 14, 1977. This list appears elsewhere in this Journal. Five new members were present at the meeting, and they stood for applause.

Miss Barbara Welther, the original computer programmer for the Association's system for publication of ten-day mean light curves, gave a short talk on the current use and up-dating of that system and reported that Dr. G.B. Field, Director of Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics has approved the use of Smithsonian computer facilities for reduction of AAVSO data.

The President announced that several members had arrived at the current meeting during the morning, after being delayed in the boat

passage from the mainland by the stormy weather, and finally being obliged to board an emergency boat at 4 a.m. from Hyannis. There was a round of applause for them, and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

The Saturday afternoon session convened at 2:15 p.m., and ex-President Fortier announced that due to transfers and expiring terms, it was necessary to elect one additional Council member for the term 1977-78. Accordingly, Theodore Wales (MA), who was next in line in the voting during the Saturday morning General Meeting, was duly elected for that term.

Mr. Fortier then announced the results of the Council's voting for Officers for 1977-78, follows:

President	Marvin E. Baldwin
Director	Janet A. Mattei
First Vice-President	Carl A. Anderson
Second Vice-President	Arthur J. Stokes
Secretary	Clinton B. Ford
Treasurer	R. Newton Mayall
Clerk	Priscilla A. Bibber
Auditor	Carl A. Anderson

The new President, Mr. Baldwin, then took over as Chairman for the Saturday afternoon papers session.

Papers numbered in the attached list were presented and discussed before adjournment of the session at 5:20 p.m.

The Saturday evening banquet was followed by many events honoring former AAVSO President and Council member, Dr. Dorrit Hoffleit, upon her official retirement as Director of Nantucket's Maria Mitchell Observatory in the Fall of 1978. Professor William Liller from Harvard Observatory, and Chairman of the Astronomy Committee of the Maria Mitchell Association, was an able master of ceremonies. He began by introducing Dr. Emilia P. Belserene, who will succeed Dr. Hoffleit as the new Observatory Director. After a short and cordial response from her, ex-President George Fortier presented, on behalf of the AAVSO, a framed certificate of appreciation to Dr. Hoffleit for her scientific contributions to AAVSO and for her generous hosting of five AAVSO meetings at Maria Mitchell Observatory during her directorship from 1957 thru 1977. She responded with a short talk, and was greeted with a long and loud applause.

Professor Liller then told about the "Memory Book" presented to Dr. Hoffleit by the over 90 astronomy students who has worked with her during her directorship. Thirteen of the 90 were present, and four gave short talks reminiscing on their experiences at the Maria Mitchell Observatory and AAVSO meetings held there. Next on the program was a recital of music played on three different recorders by Barbara Welther, who dedicated the performance to Dr. Hoffleit and to the memory of Maria Mitchell.

Professor Liller then introduced Dr. Alfred Borneman, President of the Maria Mitchell Association, who spoke honoring Dr. Hoffleit and recounting many interesting and amusing incidents in the life of Maria Mitchell. He then presented to Dr. Hoffleit a framed photograph of the Observatory, and Dr. Hoffleit again responded. Another musical program followed, consisting of four short pieces for violin and piano, played by Clinton Ford and Don Hurless.

The able emcee next introduced Carolyn Hurless who, with her husband at the piano, recited a poem by Harriet Dinerstein called "Maria Mitchell's Ghost", a parody on "The Night Before Christmas" recounting the night-time imaginings of an observer. The banquet ceremonies ended at 11:00 p.m. with toasts by Professor Liller to Dr. Hoffleit and AAVSO Director, Janet Mattei.

After much rain and stormy weather during Friday and Saturday, skies cleared at the end of the banquet, and many members visited the Loines Observatory, as scheduled.

On Sunday morning, October 16, members gathered again for coffee and sandwiches at Dr. Hoffleit's residence before departing for their boats to the mainland. All agreed that this meeting had been an especially enjoyable and memorable one.

Clinton B. Ford
Secretary

LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF THE AAVSO HELD OCTOBER 14, 1977.

1. "Beat Phenomena in the Light Curve of VX Sgr"
Horace A. Smith
2. "Variables in Sagittarius"
Gail Harns (Read by Ann Piening)
3. "The U Geminorum Star EY Cyg, and V389 Cyg, A Probable Eclipsing Star"
Ann Piening
4. "Long Period Variables and Stellar Evolution"
Ross Lipman
5. "Periods for Five Sagittarius Variables"
Marian Wolfson
6. "The Light Curve of CH Cygni, 1952-1977"
Charles Morris
7. "Six Variable Stars in Sagittarius"
Sharon Vardamis
8. "Seven Variable Stars in Sagittarius"
Robin Foster (Read by Lucia Dexter)
9. "A Suspected New Variable in Coma Berenices," and "A Note on DL Cas"
John W. Briggs
10. "The Present Sunspot Cycle"
Herbert A. Luft
11. "Plans for Variable Star Work at the University of Rhode Island"
William Penhallow
12. "Highlights of the International Astronomical Union Colloquium at Bamberg, August 1977"
Janet A. Mattei

List of New Members accepted at this meeting.

ANDREW, Judith Frances, PA	MACNAMARA, Karl, Canada
BEAVEN, Paul W., NY	MARCHISIO, Joseph Patrick, MA
BELSERENE, Emilia P., NY	MARES, Karen Jean, OK
BORGARD, Doug Ralph, OR	McGINN, George J., III, NY
BRADSHAW, Paul W., CT	McTAGUE, John P., NJ
BREIDSTER, Carrie Eldred, MN	MELTON, Tina Louise, OK
CARR, Thomas Jeffrey, LA	MORRISON, John Stuart, NY
COLTRAIN, Scott Allan, IA	OSTERMANN, Alexander, Austria
DAVIS, Talmadge Michael, GA	PETTIS, Hugh S., MD
DEITS, Chas, GA	PICCIRILLO, Ronald T., CA
DIXON, David Richard, RI	PIENING, Ann, IL
DOMEN, Ronald E., OH	PIEPER, Gregg Anthony, CO
EIERS, Joe, CA	PLUMMER, Gary William, IA
FOJO, Manuel, CA	POWER, John B., NJ
FRANK, Paul Keith, OK	RACELES, Ricardo M., MI
GAERTNER, Elke, W. Germany	RAPPAPORT, Barry, NJ
GARCIA, Jaime Ruben, Argentina	RICHARDSON, Michael R., NY
GEHRET, D. Campbell, MO	SIMOPOULOS, Dionysios P., Greece
GIANNINOTO, Joseph F., NY	SPOELSTRA, Jeffrey, IA
GORKIN, Robert A., MN	SPONGSVEEN, Jul, Norway
GRZELCZYK, Heinz Peter, W. Germany	TAYLOR, MaryJane, FL
GUEST, George Herman, CO	THIBAUT, Guy, Canada
HANSEN, Todd, CA	THIBEAULT, Doris, Canada
HATCHWELL, Alexander Victor, IA	TIDWELL, Dan, CA
HENRIKSEN, Paul, IA	VINCENT, John Vernon, Rhodesia
HILL, Dolores Hope, MI	WATTS, Kenneth Wilson, CA
HUESTIS, David Arthur, MA	WEST, Frederick Richard, CT
IADEVAIA, David G., RI	WEYAND, Charles L., CA
KLEKOCIUK, Andrew Reid, Australia	WILES, A. Wayne, NJ
LONG, James, MA	YOAK, Denver R., WV

Sponsored from iron-curtain country:

MOLNAR, Csaba	Hungary	LEMAY, Damien
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