

108 Bay Avenue, Apt. 102
Derval, P.Q.
July 5, 1965

Miss Ruth J. Northcott
David Dunlap Observatory
Richmond Hill, Ontario

Dear Miss Northcott,

You may recall that, last March, I asked you about the possibility of the R.A.S.C. starting a system of "Announcements" (or Circulars or Notices) to inform members of unexpected astronomical events, and you asked me to check with the B.A.A. about problems they have with their "Circulars." I wrote to M.P. Candy, who is in charge of the B.A.A. Circulars, and here is a summary of what he said, along with my remarks as to how the R.A.S.C. may be different.

The charge is 7/6 (about \$1.15) a year above the membership fee. They have the Circulars printed and the subscription has increased from 1600 in 1958 to 2400 this year. The charge covers the cost of about 12 Circulars (the number issued varies from year to year). Upon receipt of information for which a Circular is prepared, the printer is advised to prepare the envelopes, and the copy is printed and mailed the following day.

How much the R.A.S.C. would charge would depend on the number of subscribers and types of sources of information we have. Perhaps we could ask members if they would be interested (a notice in the Journal?).

I believe the announcements could contain the following information:

1. Discovery of a bright comet or nova expected to become brighter than ninth magnitude and far enough from the sun to be seen. Information may be received from a number of sources, including the IAU Circulars and Telegrams (does the D.D. Observatory subscribe to the IAU Telegrams, or would the society have to pay for a subscription?).
2. Requests for special observations from astronomers or members of the Standing Committee for Observational Activities.
3. Information on bright artificial satellites, including predictions for long-range orbital visibility (I could supply this myself).
4. Reminders for special astronomical events (eclipses, meteor showers, occultations, etc.).
5. Other astronomical news that may be of interest.

I expect that between five and ten announcements would be issued during a year, if the above guide is followed. Perhaps the Society could give it a try at a subscription rate of \$1.00 a year for members, with one copy of each Announcement going to each Centre, without charge. Perhaps Toronto would be the best place from where such announcements would be prepared and mailed. The Society would need a volunteer to prepare and mail them, and he would require the use of a stencil duplicator and an address printing machine.

Although there will be problems in setting up an Announcement system, I do not see any insurmountable difficulties. I hope that you will give the Announcements serious consideration.

Best regards,

Jim Low
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