

from the Province of Ontario. Without this help it would not have been possible to maintain the publications. After renting office space in various buildings for over half a century, the Society purchased a property in 1956. This is a substantial brick building situated near the corner of College Street and Spadina Avenue. The location is easily accessible from the University, being near the south-west corner of the campus. The office is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and the telephone number is 923-3784.

At the National Office is housed the astronomical library of the Society which contains a substantial collection of monographs and periodicals. Over fifty periodicals are received regularly, most of these in exchange for the Society's JOURNAL. A large number of slides and several 16-mm. films on astronomy are also kept here, and these may be borrowed by Centres and members. A member of the Society may also borrow books by writing to the Executive Secretary at 252 College Street, Toronto 2-B, Ontario, or by visiting the office.

The regular annual membership fee is \$7.50. A student who is certified as being in full-time attendance at a recognized educational institution can become a student member for \$3.00. Life membership in the Society is \$100.00.

#### **What does the Society offer to its members?**

1. The bi-monthly JOURNAL, now in its 62nd year of publication.
2. The annual OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK, a valuable aid to the study of the sky and a collection of astronomical information.
3. Access to one of the finest astronomical libraries in Canada.
4. The use of a collection of astronomical slides and several 16-mm. films on astronomical subjects.
5. Participation in all activities of the Centre to which a member is attached. These vary from Centre to Centre but generally include interesting lectures, telescope making and star nights.

## THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA



*National Headquarters  
252 College Street, Toronto, Ontario*

## The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is an organization devoted to the advancement of astronomy and allied sciences. Membership in the Society is open to anyone in the world interested in astronomy. The total membership, which is composed largely of amateurs, also includes most of the professional astronomers in Canada.

The Society has a long history. Its origins go back to 1868 when eight amateur astronomers founded a Toronto astronomical club. An expanded group obtained a charter in 1890 under the Revised Statutes of Ontario as the "Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto". In 1903, King Edward VII permitted the use of the word "Royal" and the name of the Society became "The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada".

From 85 members in 1893, the Society has now grown to over 2,000 members. For some years after incorporation, the regular meetings of the Society were held at the residences of the members. As the membership increased, the meetings were shifted to buildings of the University of Toronto. In 1906 a branch was formed at Ottawa and thus the idea of Centres of the Society came into being. There are now 16 Centres in Canada, stretching from St. John's in the east to Victoria in the west. (**Newfoundland**—St. John's; **Quebec**—Montreal (French and English Centres) and Quebec City; **Ontario**—Ottawa; Kingston; Toronto; Hamilton; Niagara Falls; London; Windsor; **Manitoba**—Winnipeg; **Alberta**—Calgary; Edmonton; **British Columbia**—Vancouver; Victoria.) At the General Assembly of the Society, representatives from a number of these Centres meet together and exchange information.

It is hardly possible to indicate here the scope of the Society's activities and the real contribution that these make to astronomical knowledge and interest in Canada. The National Society edits and distributes two publications. The JOURNAL is issued bi-monthly, six times a year, as a medium for spreading astronomical information in Canada and for making known the work of Canadian astronomers on an international basis. The

OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK, an annual publication, contains some 90 pages of information of great value to any person who wishes to "keep up with the sky".

Each Centre of the Society conducts its own programme. At regular meetings, most of which are open to the public, well-known astronomers give lectures on topics of current interest. In many instances, these lectures provide students at universities with opportunities to hear distinguished astronomers of international importance. The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada thus provides encouragement to many young people to continue with their scientific training.

The Centres organize many other activities. Members participate in observations of the aurora, meteors, sunspots, variable stars and artificial satellites. In regions where numbers permit a telescope makers' group to be established, new members can learn how to construct a telescope. The activities differ from Centre to Centre according to the interests and training of the individual members. Most Centres schedule special star nights during mild summer weather when hundreds of people have an opportunity to look through telescopes—many for the first time in their lives. The Toronto Centre, for example, has a special telescope display each evening during the Canadian National Exhibition.

In Canada, new Centres may be established at any location where there is a sufficient continuing interest to warrant such a step. A minimum of 25 persons holding regular meetings for at least a year is the usual requirement before a Centre can be formed. Our constitution does not permit the Society to accept groups outside Canada as Centres.

The David Dunlap Observatory near Toronto, the Hume Cronyn Memorial Observatory, London, a planetarium at McMaster University in Hamilton, another in the City of Edmonton, and the Observatory of the Montreal Centre, have all come into being because of the influence of the Society.

Since 1908, the Society has received financial support from the Government of Canada and