

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
STANDING COMMITTEE ON OBSERVATIONAL ACTIVITIES

BULLETIN I

MARCH, 1966

VARIABLE STAR SECTION

Variable star observing is one of the most productive fields for the amateur, and undoubtedly well organized from an international standpoint. The American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) serves as the global clearing house for observations. With headquarters located in Boston, Massachusetts, a full-time staff reduce, plot estimates and supply many institutions with light curves of approximately 1,000 variable stars.

Virtually all amateur variable star observers belong to, or use the charts of, the AAVSO. We are fortunate that such a large and competent association has been developed. In view of this, it is not my intention to complicate matters by co-ordinating or soliciting observations from AAVSO observers located in Canada.

Instead, I shall attempt co-ordination of the observers themselves. Exchanges of letters between variable star observers across Canada is nil. What size of telescopes are employed? Has photography an application to variable star observing? Do you need confirmation of the elusive minimum? And, most important - who is observing which stars and for how long?

A list of members, their locations, and completed observations follows:

<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>CENTRE</u>	<u>NO. OF OBSERVATIONS</u>
*Hugh Ross	Vancouver	2433
*Raymond Thompson	Toronto	1903
*Francis Morgan	Montreal	1259
Christopher Spratt	Niagara Falls	999
Terry Dickinson	Toronto	767
*G. L. Fortier	Quebec	540
D. A. Sherwood	Unattached	537
*M. Lattey	Unattached	456
J. G. Craig	Hamilton	265
John Baxter	Toronto	209
N. Hutchings	Unattached	108
David McAuslan	Quebec	82
*D. J. FitzGerald	Toronto	79
Leslie Sheldon	Hamilton	62
R. Hawkins	Montreal	54
Jim Low	Montreal	45
10 other observers under 40		<u>96</u>
	TOTAL FOR THE 5 YEARS	9894

*Denotes currently active observers.

According to AAVSO records, Canada has more variable star observers than any other country outside the U.S.A.

I will be sending a letter to each active observer in the R.A.S.C.; the frequency of these bulletins will depend largely on your response.

Terence Dickinson,
NATIONAL VARIABLE STAR CO-
ORDINATOR,
16 Palamar Road,
Downsview, Ontario.