

30<sup>th</sup>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE AAVSO  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1961

I consider it a very great privilege to present the annual Report of the work of the Association for this, our 50th Anniversary Year. It is a time when we should honor all those who have gone before us, and who laid such secure foundations for our association. We can all take great pride in their accomplishments. Much will be said at this meeting, of our history over the first 50 years, and we all look forward to greater things for the next 50.

FINANCES. The National Science Foundation was kind enough once again this spring, to give us a 2-year grant, to cover some of our basic expenses for operating headquarters, and collecting and preparing for publication observations of variable stars. Their support of our work is very much appreciated. We are also glad to acknowledge the financial support of the National Bureau of Standards for the work of our Solar Division.

You will hear others report on the growth of our Endowment Fund. The Fund Committee is to be highly congratulated on their excellent management of the Fund. Our holdings of International Business Machine stock have continued to grow through the generosity of our good President-Secretary, and of an anonymous friend.

The purchase of new books through the AAVSO has added several hundred dollars to the Fund, and appears to be a very profitable thing to handle, requiring very little time on our part.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. During the year we received about 600 requests for information about variable stars and the work of the AAVSO. We have a kit of mimeographed sheets we send in answer to these letters. If the inquirer has a telescope, and sounds like a good prospective observer, we send a copy of the instruction Manual, which contains some practice charts.

MEMBERSHIP. In October 1960 we elected 24 new members, and in May 1961 we elected 36, a record number of applicants. We are very sorry to have had to drop a number of our members for non-payment of dues. We hate to do this, and usually carry the delinquent member for a longer time than necessary. Our dues are kept very low, in comparison with most societies today, but we want to make membership within reach of every one. We hope that more Annual members will change to Sustaining, which is the source of much needed funds to carry on the work of the Association. During the year the AAVSO suffered a very great loss of 4 of our members: Dr. Paul W. Merrill, the Honorary Chairman of our Endowment Fund Committee, and an Honorary member of the Association since 1922, one of our most loyal supporters; Mr. K. Kogetsukan Kasai, of Japan, who became a life member of the association in 1925, and was an active observer over the years; Mrs. Helen Holmes, a member since 1922, and an active observer in the past; and Dr. Anne S. Young, one of our Charter members, a former president, who treasured her association with the AAVSO all her life, and was always ready to help in any way possible. (Note added in proof: About a week after the annual meeting, we learned to our sorrow, of the death last summer of a sustaining member and active observer, Beaufort S. Ragland, of Richmond, Virginia).

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PUBLICATIONS. Twenty eight observatories and libraries subscribe to our publications. The Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories also continue their sub-

scription to our Special Services, and we are always happy to answer their requests for special information.

NOVA AWARD. The AAVSO Nova Award was presented to Olaf Hassel of Norway for his visual discovery of Nova Herculis 1960. The Award was a beautiful plaque with blue lettering on a stainless steel plate mounted on a clear glass block. It was formally presented to Mr. Hassel at the American Embassy in Oslo on April 7, 1961. This was the 5th Award since it was set up by David B. Pickering in 1928.

LIBRARY. The Charles Y. McAteer Library received nearly 400 publications and reprints during the year, and 19 books. Publishing houses are beginning to send us copies of new astronomy books for review. These are a fine addition to our Library. On a few occasions we have addressed envelopes for publisher's ads for new books, and received copies of books in part payment.

PUBLICATIONS. I am sorry to say, we did not get a Quarterly Report published during the year. We have No. 25 ready for the printer, with the exception of a few pages of proofreading, but due to the shortage of funds, we have not had it printed. No. 25 is being worked on, and could be finished in a few months. It costs around \$300 each to publish the Quarterly Reports. One Bulletin was published during the year: No. 23, 1961 Annual Predictions of Maxima and Minima of Long Period Variables. Two issues of the AAVSO Abstracts were published, containing abstracts and papers presented at the October 1960 and the May 1961 meetings. We also published the Annual Reports of the Director, the Treasurer, and the Endowment Fund. Variable Star Notes appeared in each issue of the Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Solar Bulletins and SEA (Sudden Enhancement of Atmospherics) Reports were published by the Solar Division and sent to interested members. Reports of the Nova Search Division are incorporated in each issue of the Variable Star Notes.

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS. During the year, we received variable star observation reports from 261 observers, exceeding last year's record of 234. The reports contained 57,510 observations from 261 observers in 19 countries. A total of 1067 reports was received, making an average of 89 reports per month.

Our foreign observers, 134 strong, contributed 26,883 observations, about 47% of the total. The USA observers made 30,627, to account for the 53%. Table I gives the breakdown of totals by country, and Table II the breakdown of the USA totals by state.

TABLE I - COUNTRIES

| Country   | No. Observers | Total Obs. | Country      | No. Observers | Total Obs. |
|-----------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Argentina | 2             | 103        | Japan        | 2             | 1729       |
| Australia | 19            | 1981       | Jugoslavia   | 1             | 4          |
| Brazil    | 6             | 426        | Mexico       | 3             | 3068       |
| Canada    | 8             | 934        | Portugal     | 1             | 111        |
| Chile     | 68            | 7541       | South Africa | 3             | 7282       |
| England   | 1             | 128        | So. Rhodesia | 1             | 220        |
| France    | 1             | 107        | Sweden       | 1             | 5          |
| Germany   | 8             | 1491       | Taiwan       | 1             | 322        |
| Hungary   | 7             | 357        | U.S.A.       | 127           | 30627      |
| Italy     | 1             | 1074       |              |               |            |
|           |               |            | total        | 261           | 57510      |

|             |   |      |               |   |      |                |       |      |       |
|-------------|---|------|---------------|---|------|----------------|-------|------|-------|
| Colorado    | 1 | 222  | Michigan      | 5 | 1169 | Oklahoma       | 1     | 3    |       |
| Connecticut | 7 | 1637 | Minnesota     | 1 | 636  | Oregon         | 2     | 54   |       |
| Florida     | 5 | 738  | Mississippi   | 1 | 29   | Pennsylvania   | 3     | 179  |       |
| Georgia     | 1 | 518  | Missouri      | 1 | 2060 | South Carolina | 1     | 21   |       |
| Illinois    | 4 | 646  | Montana       | 2 | 240  | Texas          | 8     | 224  |       |
| Indiana     | 2 | 36   | New Hampshire | 1 | 144  | Virginia       | 3     | 198  |       |
| Louisiana   | 1 | 86   | New Jersey    | 3 | 478  | Washington     | 2     | 108  |       |
| Maine       | 2 | 3704 | New Mexico    | 2 | 244  | Wisconsin      | 14    | 2269 |       |
|             |   |      |               |   |      |                | total | 127  | 30627 |

The place of the observer with the greatest number of observations during the year is again taken by Reginald P. de Kock, with 5,858 observations. He was followed by Cyrus F. Fernald with 3,605, and Rodrigo de la Vega was third with 3,415. The totals of most of the observers were considerably smaller this year, due to very bad weather conditions. May and June are usually very good observing months, but in 1961, 72 observers made only 2,592 observations in May (received in June) and 87 observers, 3,300 observations in June (received in July).

Table III lists all the observers in order of their totals. Thirty observers made observations of 13.8 magnitude and fainter, and each is identified by the letter S (Inner Sanctum) after his total.

TABLE III - AAVSO OBSERVERS

Annual Report, 1961

1960 - 1961

TABLE III - UNITED STATES

|    |   |        |    |                                      |       |
|----|---|--------|----|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1  | Reginald de Kock, So. Africa                | 5858 S | 24 | *Robert Brady, Georgia               | 518   |
| 2  | Cyrus Fernald, Maine                        | 3605 S |    | *14 <sup>m</sup> flare stars         |       |
| 3  | Rodrigo de la Vega, Chile                   | 3415   | 25 | Donald Bradley, New York             | 514   |
| 4  | Edward Oravec, New York                     | 3022   | 26 | Werner Braune, Germany               | 507 S |
| 5  | Thomas Cragg, California                    | 2913 S | 27 | Ralph Buckstaff, Wisconsin           | 491   |
| 6  | Domingo Taboada, Mexico                     | 2459   | 28 | Emilio Anderfuhren, Chile            | 428   |
| 7  | Leslie Peltier, Ohio                        | 2180 S | 29 | *R.C. Shinkfield, Australia          | 416   |
| 8  | Robert Adams, Missouri                      | 2060 S |    | *plus 2h 11 <sup>m</sup> flare stars |       |
| 9  | Ferdinand Hartmann, New York                | 1747   | 30 | Clinton Ford, Connecticut            | 402 S |
| 10 | Charles Giffen, Wisconsin                   | 1375 S | 31 | Allen Montague, Illinois             | 402   |
| 11 | L.L. van Zyl, So. Africa                    | 1134   | 32 | William Miller, New Jersey           | 392   |
| 12 | C.J. Renner, Michigan                       | 1100 S | 33 | Gabriel Marcovitch, Chile            | 354   |
| 13 | G.B. Lacchini, Italy                        | 1074 S | 34 | Chang-Hsien Tsai, Taiwan             | 322   |
| 14 | Jose Pena V., Chile                         | 1043   | 35 | Paulo Mourilhe S., Brazil            | 312   |
| 15 | Hideo Honda, Japan                          | 1008   | 36 | Art Gonthier, Mexico                 | 308 S |
| 16 | *Stephen Burt, Massachusetts                | 971    | 37 | Michiel Overbeek, So. Africa         | 290 S |
|    | *6 <sup>m</sup> 48 <sup>m</sup> flare stars |        | 38 | Albert Sharpless, Florida            | 284 S |
| 17 | Carolyn Hurless, Ohio                       | 958 S  | 39 | Hector Ayala R., Mexico              | 261   |
| 18 | David Rosebrugh, Connecticut                | 820    | 40 | *Frank Kelly, Florida                | 261   |
| 19 | Tatsuo Yamada, Japan                        | 721 S  |    | *plus 25 <sup>m</sup> flare stars    |       |
| 20 | Curtis Anderson, Minnesota                  | 636    | 41 | Francis Morgan, Canada               | 260   |
| 21 | Leif Robinson, California                   | 626 S  | 42 | Paul Ahnert, Germany                 | 259   |
| 22 | Leopoldo Celis S., Chile                    | 625    | 43 | Robert Price, Australia              | 251   |
| 23 | D.W. Orchiston, Australia                   | 604    | 44 | R. Lansing Hicks, Connecticut        | 239   |

continued

TABLE III - AAVSO OBSERVERS

Annual Report, 1961

1960 - 1961

TABLE III - UNITED STATES

|   |       |                                  |      |
|---|-------|----------------------------------|------|
| 45 Christopher Spratt, Canada                     | 237   | 97 Bruce Gardner, Pennsylvania   | 63   |
| 46 Charles McPherson, Montana                     | 235   | 98 Ricardo Gonzales, Chile       | 63   |
| 47 Tom McFarland, Wisconsin                       | 230 S | 99 Marcos Severin, Argentina     | 63   |
| 48 *Donald Engelkemeir, Illinois                  | 224   | 100 Arthur Pearlmutter, New York | 61   |
| *plus 44 <sup>h</sup> 37 <sup>m</sup> flare stars |       | 101 George Diedrich, Ohio        | 59   |
| 49 Jeremy Knowles, Colorado                       | 222   | 102 Jurgen Masuch, Germany       | 59   |
| 50 D.A. Sherwood, Canada                          | 222   | 103 A.R. Ball, Wisconsin         | 58   |
| 51 R.H. Bicknell, So. Rhodesia                    | 220   | 104 Philip Peters, California    | 55   |
| 52 Marvin Baldwin, New Mexico                     | 208   | 105 Bruce Buckman, Australia     | 54   |
| 53 Rainer Mende, Germany                          | 202   | 106 Robert Conklin, Virginia     | 53   |
| 54 Victor Aguirre, Chile                          | 200   | 107 William Glenn, New York      | 48   |
| 55 Peter Lehmann, Germany                         | 192   | 108 Norman Hutchings, Canada     | 48   |
| 56 John Ruiz, New York                            | 190   | 109 Juan Astudillo, Chile        | 47   |
| 57 Robert W. Miller, Florida                      | 183 S | 110 Oliveiros Tavares, Brazil    | 47   |
| 58 Csaba Szekely, Hungary                         | 178   | 111 Ronald Royer, California     | 44   |
| 59 Kenneth Fuller, Arizona                        | 174   | 112 Robert Sealy, Oregon         | 44   |
| 60 Enzo Ortiz, Chile                              | 172   | 113 Edward Halbach, Wisconsin    | 43   |
| 61 G. Vodrazka, Australia                         | 167   | 114 Walter Hampton, Connecticut  | 41   |
| 62 Arturo Martinez, Chile                         | 158   | 115 Stephen Bieda, California    | 40   |
| 63 Diane Lucas, Ohio                              | 156   | 116 Angel Meynet, Argentina      | 40   |
| 64 Wolfgang Quester, Germany                      | 145   | 117 I.P. Debono, Australia       | 39   |
| 65 Carl Anderson, New Hampshire                   | 144   | 118 Eliz. McDonagh, Australia    | 38   |
| 66 Wayne Lowder, New York                         | 142 S | 119 Everett Morrow, California   | 38 S |
| 67 Ernest Lorenz, California                      | 140   | 120 Dan Judd, New Mexico         | 36 S |
| 68 Patrick Rizzo, New York                        | 139   | 121 Edgar Paulton, New York      | 36   |
| 69 *Keith Axelson, California                     | 134 S | 122 Alfonso Caceres, Chile       | 35   |
| *plus 3 <sup>h</sup> 8 <sup>m</sup> flare stars   |       | 123 Robert Loblay, Australia     | 35   |
| 70 F.N. Traynor, Australia                        | 133   | 124 K. Menzel, Australia         | 35   |
| 71 G.O. Rawstron, England                         | 128 S | 125 Douglas Bash, Wisconsin      | 34 S |
| 72 Lancaster Hiatt, Virginia                      | 124   | 126 Jay Frogel, New York         | 34   |
| 73 O.M. Erpenstein, California                    | 119 S | 127 A. Thomas Murphy, California | 34   |
| 74 Ximena de la Vega, Chile                       | 112   | 128 Manuel Schilling, Chile      | 33   |
| 75 Joao Pena, Portugal                            | 111   | 129 J.G. Craig, Canada           | 32   |
| 76 Gary Bream, Pennsylvania                       | 108   | 130 Henry Specht, Connecticut    | 32   |
| 77 Alphonse Oberstatter, France                   | 107   | 131 Ray Berg, Indiana            | 31   |
| 78 Sergio Solano, Chile                           | 104   | 132 Richard Stanton, California  | 31 S |
| 79 Mario Fernandes, Germany                       | 102   | 133 Neil Travis, Michigan        | 30   |
| 80 Walter Scott Houston, Conn.                    | 101 S | 134 Nona Ledbetter, Mississippi  | 29   |
| 81 Lajos Bartha, Hungary                          | 100   | 135 Roger Kopp, Michigan         | 27   |
| 82 Margaret Olmsted, Maine                        | 99    | 136 DeLorne Diedrich, Ohio       | 26   |
| 83 Morgan Thomas, Washington                      | 99    | 137 Harold Kastin, New York      | 26   |
| 84 Howard Nightingale, Australia                  | 95    | 138 Luiz Muniz B., Brazil        | 26   |
| 85 M. Lattey, Canada                              | 90    | 139 R.R. Staer, Australia        | 26   |
| 86 Rene Figueroa, Chile                           | 87    | 140 Dezso Drahos, Hungary        | 25   |
| 87 Stephen Schiff, Louisiana                      | 86    | 141 Hernan Salce M., Chile       | 25   |
| 88 Herbert Seavey, Arizona                        | 83    | 142 W. Schröder, Germany         | 25   |
| 89 William De Forge, New Jersey                   | 82    | 143 Gordon Smith, Canada         | 25   |
| 90 Patricio Giordano, Chile                       | 82    | 144 Richard Davis, Massachusetts | 23   |
| 91 Robert Shayler, Texas                          | 74    | 145 Florence Glenn, New York     | 23   |
| 92 J. Russell Smith, Texas                        | 74 S  | 146 Violeta Izquierdo, Chile     | 23   |
| 93 Tomas Balassa, Chile                           | 69    | 147 Santiago Barrera, Chile      | 22   |
| 94 Craycroft Wilson, New York                     | 68    | 148 Paul Knauth, Texas           | 22   |
| 95 Mario Loocks, Chile                            | 66    | 149 James Carlisle, S. Carolina  | 21   |
| 96 Andres Hidalgo, Chile                          | 65    | 150 Imre Fejes, Hungary          | 21   |

continued

|     |                                |      |     |                                 |     |
|-----|--------------------------------|------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| 151 | Beaufort Ragland, Virginia     | 21   | 207 | Joseph Kammel, New York         | 5   |
| 152 | Julietta Venegas, Chile        | 21   | 208 | Anthony Mackay, Chile           | 5 5 |
| 153 | Silvia Aquirre, Chile          | 20   | 209 | Juan Moroni, Chile              | 5   |
| 154 | Cornelia Newton, California    | 20   | 210 | Jose Olivarez, Texas            | 5   |
| 155 | Leslie Sheldon, Canada         | 20   | 211 | Robert Percy, Indiana           | 5   |
| 156 | Van Wilson, Arizona            | 20   | 212 | Fermin Pereyra, Chile           | 5   |
| 157 | Mario Acuna, Chile             | 19   | 213 | Pedro Quijada, Chile            | 5   |
| 158 | Charles Aronowitz, New York    | 19   | 214 | Patricio Rettig, Chile          | 5   |
| 159 | Norman Godfrey, Texas          | 19   | 215 | Darlo Riquelme, Chile           | 5   |
| 160 | John Lynch, Texas              | 19   | 216 | Edward Schmidt, Montana         | 5   |
| 161 | Raul Manasevich, Chile         | 19   | 217 | Karl Wells, New York            | 5   |
| 162 | Joseph Anderer, Illinois       | 18   | 218 | Jane Douglas, New York          | 4   |
| 163 | J. Flavin, Australia           | 18   | 219 | James Ellerbe, Yugoslavia       | 4   |
| 164 | M. Sobrinho, Brazil            | 18   | 220 | Jerome Hudson, Texas            | 4   |
| 165 | Elena Bizzozere, Chile         | 17   | 221 | George Lovi, New Jersey         | 4   |
| 166 | Maria Geerdts, Chile           | 17   | 222 | Carlos Pizarre, Chile           | 4   |
| 167 | Richard Yelle, Massachusetts   | 17   | 223 | Juan Riquelme, Chile            | 4   |
| 168 | Jair Barroso, Brazil           | 16   | 224 | Nelson Rocha, Chile             | 4   |
| 169 | Pal Szabo, Hungary             | 16   | 225 | Jose Rojas, Chile               | 4   |
| 170 | Pedro Borquez, Chile           | 15   | 226 | Dan Snow, Ohio                  | 4   |
| 171 | Donald Ward, Australia         | 15   | 227 | Wallace Byrd, Oklahoma          | 3   |
| 172 | L.J.A. Williamson, Australia   | 15   | 228 | Ali Dueck, Chile                | 3   |
| 173 | Sergio Melendes, Chile         | 14   | 229 | Arnold Engel, Chile             | 3   |
| 174 | Miguel Valdez, Chile           | 14   | 230 | James Thompson, New York        | 3   |
| 175 | F. Lewindon, Australia         | 13   | 231 | Julio Alcazar, Chile            | 2   |
| 176 | Peter Williamson, Australia    | 12   | 232 | F.J. Brinley, Maryland          | 2   |
| 177 | Walter Kaminski, Wisconsin     | 11 S | 233 | Pedro Carbacho, Chile           | 2   |
| 178 | Dan Leithoff, Oregon           | 10   | 234 | Julio de Buen, Chile            | 2   |
| 179 | Stephen Maran, Michigan        | 10   | 235 | Frederick Fallon, Maryland      | 2   |
| 180 | Dennis Matthies, Wisconsin     | 10   | 236 | Anthony Hull, Connecticut       | 2   |
| 181 | Richard Wend, Wisconsin        | 10 S | 237 | Tim Hunter, Illinois            | 2   |
| 182 | Waldo Molina, Chile            | 9    | 238 | Antonio Lazo, Chile             | 2   |
| 183 | Sandor Pinter, Hungary         | 9    | 239 | Rafael Quiroga, Chile           | 2   |
| 184 | Albert Ullmann, New York       | 9    | 240 | John Ries, Wisconsin            | 2   |
| 185 | Donald West, Washington        | 9    | 241 | Christine Rosenfield, Michigan  | 2   |
| 186 | William Abbey, Florida         | 8    | 242 | Barton Sallings, Ohio           | 2   |
| 187 | John Graham, Australia         | 8    | 243 | David Stowe, Wisconsin          | 2   |
| 188 | Sonia Loocks, Chile            | 8    | 244 | Maria Teran, Chile              | 2   |
| 189 | Amelia Lorca, Chile            | 8    | 245 | Teresa Valles, Chile            | 2   |
| 190 | María Ormazabal, Chile         | 8    | 246 | Betty Worcester, Florida        | 2   |
| 191 | Peter Petik, Hungary           | 8    | 247 | Morelia Astudillo, Chile        | 1   |
| 192 | Richard Tompkins, Pennsylvania | 8    | 248 | Maria Berzano, Chile            | 1   |
| 193 | Carlos Uribe, Chile            | 8    | 249 | John Cobb, Wisconsin            | 1   |
| 194 | Robert Farmer, Texas           | 7    | 250 | Mario D'Ardillon, Chile         | 1   |
| 195 | Guillermo Fernandez, Chile     | 7    | 251 | Edward DeGennaro, New York      | 1   |
| 196 | Miguel Mena, Chile             | 7    | 252 | J.G. Goodsell, California       | 1   |
| 197 | Alexandre Rocha, Brazil        | 7    | 253 | Margaret Mayall, Massachusetts  | 1   |
| 198 | G. Topp, Australia             | 7    | 254 | Marcelina Prat, Chile           | 1   |
| 199 | Claudio Aguirre, Chile         | 6    | 255 | Donald Ramthun, Wisconsin       | 1   |
| 200 | Ismael Alvarez, Chile          | 6    | 256 | Rodolfo Riveros, Chile          | 1   |
| 201 | James Breckinridge, Ohio       | 6    | 257 | Ines Romano, Chile              | 1   |
| 202 | Claudio Czuia, Chile           | 6    | 258 | Kenneth Weitzenhoffer, New York | 1   |
| 203 | Gabriel Garland, Chile         | 6    | 259 | Irving Williams, New York       | 1   |
| 204 | Jose Izquierdo, Chile          | 6    | 260 | Joan Williams, New York         | 1   |
| 205 | Donald Lammon, California      | 6    | 261 | Ray Zit, Wisconsin              | 1   |
| 206 | Gunnar Darsenius, Sweden       | 5    |     |                                 |     |

Twenty-three observers sent reports in each month during the year, and sixteen others missed one or two months. It is important for us to receive the observations as soon as possible after the first of each month, in order to have up-to-date information available concerning the variables. We receive many requests for information concerning the current activities of certain stars, and we have standing requests from spectroscopists who wish to be alerted for any unusual actions in any of the variables on our program.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS. We are pleased to have many observers becoming interested in special observing programs to be carried out under AAVSO supervision. Flare stars are of great interest, and statistics of hours observed with no flare activity are important. A few flares have been caught, notably one of  $\Delta$  Leonis by Donald Engelkemeir (see P.A.S.P. 71, p. 522, December 1959).

A very successful program was set up several years ago at the request of Andrew Young of the Harvard Observatory, to observe 3 interesting Cepheid variables in the galactic cluster NGC 7790. Two of them, CEa and CEb Cas, are only 2 seconds of arc apart, a very difficult observing problem, requiring a fairly large telescope and near perfect seeing conditions. The results of 2 observing seasons gave a correction to the previous periods and continuing observations result in further refinements.

Dr. Ashbrook has suggested observations of several eclipsing stars. They require a series of observations through minimum with accurate timing. John Ruiz and Donald Engelkemeir have made very good PEP determinations, and Dr. Ashbrook has found that the mean of several visual determinations is also valuable.

Several Observers have become intensely interested in the Orion Region variables. Lelf Robinson, who is responsible for the fine chart of the region, is setting up programs of simultaneous visual observations. Charles Giffen uses filters for visual work, particularly the green Wratten 57 (see AAVSO Abstracts October 1960). R.W. Miller and H.E.M. Specht are doing photographic work, and Stephen Burt is experimenting with a Danjon Cat's Eye Photometer.

Probably for the first time, an organized visual program was set up for the observation of a supernova, SN 4564. T.A. Cragg produced a chart and sequence within a few days of the discovery of the supernova, and many members were able to observe it. A paper in the Abstracts of the October 1961 meeting gives results from four of the observers.

Mr. Cragg is also doing some fine work in setting up sequences and charts for interesting variables to add to our observing programs. He bases the photovisual magnitudes on photoelectric standards. The final drafting of new charts is done by Robert Brady.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. At the meeting of Commission 27 Variable Stars of the International Astronomical Union during the Eleventh General Assembly, the suggestion was made that it would be of great value to the professional astronomer if all amateur variable star associations could send their observations to one central headquarters, where all available observations would be combined and published as 10-day means. This would in no way interfere with the publications of other societies, in fact, they are urged to publish their individual observations. The AAVSO, as one of the largest organizations, was asked to undertake the project. Our observations are already published as 10-day means, so it will require very little more time and printing space to include more observations, and much more complete mean curves

should result. Full credit will be given to each society so there should be no duplication trouble. The individual observations of the AAVSO members are not printed, but are preserved on microfilm, and are available to any one needing them, at slight cost.

OTHER ACTIVITIES. The Solar Division with Harry Bondy, Chairman, continues to supply the important American Sunspot Numbers to the National Bureau of Standards, in addition to the SEA and SES work. The Occultation Committee, under the Chairmanship of Roy Seely, has a fine record of occultations observed and sent to the International center in England. The Photoelectric Photometry Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lewis Boss, with the able help of John Ruiz and Donald Engelkemeir, has done much to help the amateur. The PEP Handbook, which has been out-of-print, is being rewritten, and will include much information of value to prospective observers. A Photographic Committee is being set up, under the Chairmanship of Charles Giffen. Much interest has been evinced in photography by many of our members, and it will be good to have a committee to answer their questions, and to set up programs for their cooperation. The Chart Curator, Richard Hamilton, reports a great deal of activity with new charts, and requests for many large sets of AAVSO charts. Two hundred and fifty mailings of nearly 6,000 charts were made during the year. The Nova Search Committee under the Chairmanship of George Diedrich, has continued to accumulate valuable statistics on the occurrence, or non-occurrence of novae. During the year, 33 observers reported searching for nova a total of 2,849 area nights.

PERSONNEL. We have been very fortunate that Mrs. Florence Campbell Bibber has been able to put in full time as AAVSO assistant. We had many interviews to try to find a third person for the office staff, but did not succeed in finding anyone suitable, and decided that it would be a more efficiently run office with just the two of us. We have been fortunate, however, that one of our members, Stephen Burt, has been able to come in for a few hours a week, after school, and on Saturdays. He has been a great help to us. Mrs. Bibber's past experience with her father's work, and her long time contact with AAVSO affairs, has been invaluable. She carried on the work of the office very efficiently while I was attending the meetings of the International Astronomical Union in Berkeley this summer.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the officers of the AAVSO and all our members and friends for their consideration and encouragement. They help in many ways, with contributions of money, books, and time. I would like to mention in particular, Mrs. Phoebe Haas, who continues her work of taking 10-day means of observations sent to us by other societies.

We are looking forward to the next fifty years, and only regret that not many of us will be here to learn the accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARET W. MAYALL  
Director, AAVSO