

The Legacy of Annie Jump Cannon: Discoveries and Catalogues of Variable Stars (*Abstract*)

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Abstract This paper will review the many variable star projects and publications that Annie Jump Cannon brought to fruition in her forty-five-year career at Harvard College Observatory. In 1896, when Cannon joined the “Corps of Women Computers” at HCO, Williamina Fleming already enjoyed worldwide acclaim for her discoveries of novae on photographs of stellar spectra. Antonia Maury had also become renowned: she had discovered and analyzed a rare spectroscopic binary star, β Aurigae. At that time, such discoveries made headlines in newspapers, especially because they were made by women who studied astronomy by day! When Cannon was not actively involved in classifying stellar spectra, she took up HCO’s project of cataloguing observations of variables. As a result, she discovered thousands of long period variable stars and half a dozen novae in the Milky Way. In 1903 she published “A Provisional Catalogue of Variable Stars” in *Harvard Annals* 48. Subsequently, Margaret Walton Mayall and Florence Campbell Bibber continued cataloguing the variables through 1941, when Cannon died. In 1918, when Cannon and others such as Edward Pickering and Solon Bailey, were made honorary members of the American Association of Variable Star Observers, Cannon wrote: “I assure you it is a pleasure to be associated in this way, with a company of ardent observers and investigators, whose results are of so much value and carried on with such enthusiasm. It will be a spur to me in my future work, especially as to the new Catalogue of Variable Stars, which I hope to finish before very long.”

Margaret W. Mayall in the AAVSO Archives (*Abstract*)

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Abstract AAVSO Director Margaret W. Mayall’s presence in the AAVSO Archives is unique in that it was only by her effort that the AAVSO’s institutional memory survived the organization’s years of struggle. The history of the AAVSO could not have been written thoroughly and accurately without its archival collections. Similarly, the story of Mayall and the AAVSO within that history is not only informed, but is also formed by the materials that she chose to collect and preserve over the years.