

A.A.V.S.O.

SOLAR DIVISION BULLETIN

Neal J. Heines, Editor.

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560 Broadway,
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At the close of our first complete year of sun-spot observations the Solar Division Committee and the Council of the AAVSO wishes to thank all of you for your splendid co-operation.

All have given unselfishly, their valuable time to make the Solar Division what it is today. This was especially true during the war emergency period and is commendable.

This organization is to be a permanent one. Now during peace years our efforts should be doubled in order to improve the standards of our observations. Let us all resolve to bend every means to make this possible.

We have grown from a few to a goodly number, not without difficulty and interruption, but soundly. With the return of many amateur astronomers from the Military Services and with new potential observers who have become familiar with some of the aspects of Astronomy through their study of Navigation let us seek to revive the interest of the former and invite the latter to participate in some astronomical venture, not in the sun-spot field alone, but in the observations of Variable Stars, Meteors etc., as well.

We are very happy to announce the return of Dr. Donald H. Menzel to Harvard College Observatory from the Navy Department in Washington. As you all know Dr. Menzel is on the Solar Division Committee. The influence of his interest, his council and advice will be strongly reflected in the work of the Division. Quoting from a letter received, very shortly after his return, Dr. Menzel had this to say; " -- I hope I shall be able to work more closely with the Solar Division of the AAVSO than I have in the past ".

Our membership is expanding beyond the bounds of our continent. We have signed up Senor Victor A. Estremadayo of Peru South America for sun-spot observations. Welcome Senor!!

Those observers who received a set of annual forms for 1945 and wish another set for 1946 should notify the chairman immediately. The purpose of these forms is to provide annual records broken down into components for permanent personal use.

For those who are doing sun-spot co-ordinate work, the dates of Solar Rotation Periods for 1946, are listed below. The Rotation Number is given as well as the time, by date, of Zero longitude.

No. 1235:	Jan. 4.628, 1946	No. 1242:	July 14.524, 1946
1236:	Jan. 31.968	1243:	Aug. 10.740
1237:	Feb. 28.306	1244:	Sept 6.985
1238:	Mar. 27.619	1245:	Oct. 4.259
1239:	Apr. 23.892	1246:	Oct. 31.552
1240:	May. 21.222	1247:	Nov. 27.860
1241:	Jun. 17.324	1248:	Dec. 25.183

Zero longitude, of course, being that of longitude on the Sun.

We cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of mailing your Monthly Reports early, so that they reach the chairman by the 10th., of each month. There are times when sickness prevents this but keep in mind that both branches of the Military Service continue to use this data, and will do so for some time to come. Your work on sun spots is still very important.

Mr. Ben C. Parmenter, of Seattle, Washington, one of our west coast observers, has started making his 36th. Telescope ! ! This time it is to be a 12" Cassegrainian. He writes, " I am now at work on my 36th Telescope ----- and I hope to combine all the good points I have found in the numbers 1 to 35 I have sweated over". Good Luck ! fellow we know you will be successful.

Mr. "Jimmy" Brugh of Swissville Pa., who was ill with pneumonia last month and part of October could not observe but was not content to remain idle. As soon as he was able he instigated a reading program and recommends to his ~~many~~ fellow observers of the Solar Division to send to the Smithsonian Institution of Washington D.C. for copies of Reprints, listed below, which are free of charge;

" The Sun and the Atmosphere" by Dr. Harlan T. Stetson.
Publication No. 3494 with 26 pages and 3 plates.

" The Sun and the Earth's Magnetic Field" by Dr. Jno. A. Fleming.
Publication No 3711 with 36 pages and 19 plates.

" The Fringe of the Sun: Nebulium and Coronium" by C. G. James.
Publication No. 3558 with 5 pages and 5 plates.

" Artificial Converters of Solar Energy" by H. C. Hottel.
Publication No. 3653 with 12 pages and no plates.

"Jimmy" further indicates, "I do believe that all of the above publications would be of immense interest to members of the Solar Division ----".

Your chairman is familiar with the above publications and wishes to substantiate Mr Brugh's recommendation.

In the not too distant future, Blackiston, Publishers of the Harvard Books on Astronomy, will release Dr. Menzels book on "The Sun". Every member of the S.D. will do well to purchase a copy of this work. Announcement of its release will be made in a future Bulletin.

With the passing of this year your chairman would like to leave this thought with you. It is taken from Milton's "Paradise Lost" that portion, "Hymn of the Nativity" which reads as follows;

" Ring out, ye celestial spheres!
Once bless our human ears
(If ye have power to charm us so);
And let your silver chime
Move in melodious time,
And let the bass of Heaven's
deep organ blow;
And with your ninefold harmony
Make up full concert with the
angelic symphony."