

Foreign Language Coordinator. We are glad to announce the initiation of a new service for A. L. P. O. members, namely the translation of pertinent lunar and planetary articles in foreign-language periodicals into English. The supervisor of the translating, whom we shall call the Foreign Language Coordinator, is:

Professor Ernst Both
Department of German
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Buffalo
Buffalo 14, New York

Mr. Both is obviously in a very favorable position to help us with translations. We plan to publish in The Strolling Astronomer abstracts of articles translated. A. L. P. O. members having both a good knowledge of a foreign language and the necessary familiarity with technical and scientific terminology are invited to correspond with Mr. Both about assisting him with the translating. How much we can do must naturally depend upon how many can help. The principal languages involved are French, German, and Spanish. Our main objective with this new service is to effect closer cooperation between lunar and planetary observers in different countries.

Reminder of New Address. Readers are reminded that the address of this periodical is now 1835 Evans Place, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Mail sent to the former address at 1203 N. Alameda is apparently being forwarded, but it will help everyone concerned to use the new address in all correspondence.

OCCULTATIONS OF STARS BY MINOR PLANETS

by

Gordon E. Taylor

Since 1952, any possible occultations of stars by the minor planets Ceres, Pallas, Juno and Vesta have been predicted in the Handbook of the British Astronomical Association in order to collect observations and determine the diameters of these bodies. The first successful observation of such an occultation was made by Per-Åke Björklund and Svend Aage Müller of Malmö, Sweden on 1958, February 19^d 21^h 54^m, U. T. Their observation shows that the diameter of Juno must be not less than 70 miles (micrometric observations give a diameter of about 120 miles). The actual diameter can not be calculated because no other observations have been received. The occultation of a star by Juno on 1958, April 4 should have been visible from a few places in South America and it is hoped that the actual diameter may be deduced from any available observations.

This type of observation, requiring only small telescopes, is one that can readily be undertaken by amateur astronomers. In fact, it is true to say that it is not merely desirable, but essential, that amateur astronomers should cooperate for this project to succeed. Except possibly in Europe, professional observatories are so sparsely scattered compared with the width of the "shadow" of the occultation that this shadow could cross a large area without actually covering a single professional observatory.

Postscript by Editor. A. L. P. O. members are invited to participate in this project, and we shall be glad to relay to Dr. Taylor any observations which we receive. Very small apertures of as little as two or three inches are here adequate, and even desirable. Dr. Taylor's address is H. M. Nautical Almanac Office, Royal Greenwich Observatory, Herstmonceux Castle, Hailsham, Sussex, England.