

AL/3640 University Observatory,
Oxford.

1929, Feb. 19.

Dear Sir,

I hear of the suggested presentation to Miss M.A. Blagg with very great pleasure, and it would be kind of you to let me know when it takes place, for if possible I should like to come to do honour to the occasion.

As regards her work and merits. It would be better I think not to mention election to the Royal Astronomical Society, which is not an honour of the same nature as election to the Royal Society, for instance: in the latter case the number of elections is definitely restricted to 15 per year, whereas we welcome in the R.A.S. anyone desirous of belonging, who is a "fit and proper person". There is of course a special significance about the election of women, which was a new departure, and it was specially pleasant to have Miss Blagg among those who ^{earliest} availed themselves of the new opportunity, but no selection by the Society was exercised. She was proposed by myself on Nov. 12, 1915, and elected on Jan. 14, 1916, in the usual course: four other ladies were elected at the same time.

Fortunately there is no need to utilize this particular incident, for Miss Blagg has done plenty of work to deserve the award: her most important work I think is that which she has done in collating the different names for objects on the lunar surface, following the suggestions of the late S.A. Saunder. I send you herewith a copy of the result. She followed this up by completing the map of the moon, the central portions of which were drawn by the late W.H. Wesley:

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this map is to be the vehicle for the names when selected by the Committee of the International Astronomical Union, and as Chairman of the Committee until recently, I state confidently that Miss Blagg has been by far the most important member of it. She has also done valuable work in discussing observations of variable stars, especially those made by the late Joseph Baxendell, and as a side issue she found a remarkable relation between the distances of the planets and of their satellites, which may turn out to throw light on the origin of planets and satellites. All this work has been done with painstaking accuracy, and must have cost much labour.

You ask for a brief statement, and therefore I have condensed what might be a long and important one into a few sentences, but if you would like me to expand it I will gladly do so.

Yours faithfully,

A H Turner

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