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NEW DATA ON CYRILLIDS

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The great Canadian Fireball Procession of February 9, 1913 (Cyrillids) was originally reported by Chant (1913a and 1913b) in this Journal. Chant noted that all accounts of the shower fell on a great circle arc extending from Mortlach in Saskatchewan to Bermuda. Chant put forward the hypothesis that these observations represented the flight of a group of small natural earth satellites in a cluster from which members were constantly falling onto the surface of the earth.

Denning (1915, 1916) uncovered two more observations which extended the path another 3300 miles to a point just below the equator off the coast of Brazil. Pickering (1923) uncovered three more ship observations between Bermuda and New York. Mebane (1956) uncovered several dozen newspaper accounts in the states of South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

O'Keefe (1961) repeated and extended Mebane's work in New York. He confirmed an unpublished study of Mebane's in Wisconsin and showed by an examination of several thousand papers in the midwest that observations of this kind are found only in the vicinity of the orbit first sketched on the map by Chant. He also showed that the attack on Chant's analysis by C. C. Wylie was incorrect; the radiant proposed by Wylie did not account for the length of the orbit nor for the persistent statements by eye witnesses along the path that it was level.

In 1965, a search was made in the three Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba for newspaper accounts of this shower. In Manitoba, the work was carried out in collaboration with B. F. Shinn, President of the Winnipeg Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. A total of 42 newspapers were examined with negative results.