

## BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY DATA

THE Atmospheric Sciences Division of the British Antarctic Survey produces large amounts of geophysical data, most of which are made available through the World Data Centre (WDC) system. Some sections, particularly ionospherics, circulate some of their data to interested individuals with the result that these data are widely used internationally. Much of the data, however, are not readily available and their merits are not well known. The positions of the British Antarctic Survey stations offer special advantages for testing theory in certain disciplines and the data obtained should be more readily available. In some cases, considerably more care than is generally used has been taken to make British Antarctic Survey data reliable, with the result that these sequences of data can be regarded as reference sets, e.g. the British Antarctic Survey ozone measurements. There are also cases, particularly in meteorology, where the value of the data falls rapidly with time, and rapid publication and circulation is desirable. Material from special *ad hoc* studies is useful to relatively small numbers of scientists but is often unsuitable for circulation through a WDC nor justifies publication in a standard journal.

To meet these needs in an economical manner, it is proposed to publish a new *British Antarctic Survey Data* series. These will be produced from typescript, graphs, maps or computer output by offset as individual booklets, to be issued randomly according to need. Such booklets will be circulated to those mainly interested at low cost—free in the case of organizations or individuals having special relations or operating data exchange with the British Antarctic Survey.

In principle, the material may come from any of the three scientific divisions of the British Antarctic Survey, or involve logistics material which deserves medium-scale (50–500 copies) circulation. It is expected that most of the data will originate in the Atmospheric Sciences Division, which will use blue as a cover colour. The titles of *British Antarctic Survey Data* will be published in the *British Antarctic Survey Bulletin*. These data reports will supplement the papers published in the *British Antarctic Survey Bulletin* and *Scientific Reports* which will continue publication as at present. The Editor of the *Data* series will be the Head of the Atmospheric Sciences Division, to whom suggestions for new issues should be addressed.

The first issues of *British Antarctic Survey Data* will be mainly directed to making available data with larger than normal potential use, to update sequences of data already published, to circulate non-standard sets of data or data requiring rapid publication where the demand is sufficient.

The first issue presents 3 hourly magnetic index,  $K$ , and daily magnetic amplitude,  $A$ , data for the Argentine Islands and Halley Bay for the period 1957–74. These data are of more than normal interest because special care has been taken to study the quiet-day variations at this station and to correct the  $K$  and  $A$  indices so that they represent disturbance activity even when small. Thus they provide particularly reliable sets of  $K$  and  $A$  indices for a temperate-latitude station with special value for the selection of abnormally quiet magnetic conditions in the Southern Hemisphere during the period 1957–74. Similar data for an auroral station, Halley Bay, will be published later.