

Margaret Burbidge elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London

March 24, 1964

A woman astronomer at the University of California, San Diego, has earned one of the great distinctions in the world of science.

Margaret Burbidge, Associate Research Astronomer, was notified last week that she is one of 25 British scientists elected this year to the Royal Society of London.

The Royal Society, founded in 1660, is the oldest scientific society in Great Britain and one of the most prestigious in the world. Its Fellows have included the greatest names among British scientists. There are approximately 600 Fellows, several of them women. Sir Edward Bullard, a Visiting Professor of Geophysics at UCSD, is a Fellow. Among the Foreign Members is Harold C. Urey, Professor of Chemistry-at-Large, UCSD.

Mrs. Burbidge, is the wife of Geoffrey R. Burbidge, a Professor of Physics at UCSD. They have one daughter, Sarah, 7. Both Burbidges are British citizens. They have been members of the UCSD staff since 1962. Mrs. Burbidge is a graduate of University College, University of London, from which she received the B.S. Her specialty was astronomy. She took her Ph.D., in astrophysics, from the University of London.

Mrs. Burbidge has worked at several universities in Great Britain and the U. S. Most recently, she and her husband were at California Institute of Technology, Yerkes Observatory, from which they came to UCSD.

Mrs. Burbidge is a member of the American Astronomical Society, the Royal Astronomical Society, London, and Sigma Xi. She is the author or co-author of almost one hundred scientific papers.

Her research interests have led her into widely-acclaimed studies of the origin of the stars, the origin of elements, and the development of galaxies. Much of her work has been done in collaboration with her husband, but she has also conducted research independently and with such scientists as Fred Hoyle of England. Her husband, Geoffrey Burbidge, is not a Fellow.