

H·A·D NEWS

*The Newsletter of the Historical Astronomy Division
of the American Astronomical Society*

Number 74 * April 2009

The IYA and HAD

Jarita C. Holbrook, University of Arizona

The UNESCO-supported International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) has the slogan: “The Universe: yours to discover.” The Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society has an oblique connection to IYA2009USA through its Chair’s and Vice-Chair’s membership on the Cultural Astronomy and Storytelling (CAST) working group along with HAD member Kim Malville. The task of IYA2009USA is outreach, particularly to new publics. Various working groups have built creative projects to engage the public and showcase the wonders of the Universe (see <http://astronomy2009.us/projects/>).

The tone of IYA2009 is high tech gadgets, pretty Hubble Space Telescope pictures, and engagement of the geek community through mediums they already love: Twitter, MySpace, Second Life, blogs, etc. The role of CAST has been different: including ethnic diversity intersecting with astronomy, diversity in our target audiences, celestial storytelling, and showing the culture of astronomers. The following is a short overview of past events along with the unique and creative ways we plan to engage the public, ending with a proposed stronger role of HAD in IYA2009USA.

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From the Chair

Thomas Hockey, University of Northern Iowa

The 2009 HAD Meeting in Long Beach was one of the busiest. It included two well-attended special sessions: “The History of the Telescope,” organized by Peter Abrahams, and “Astronomical Photometry,” organized by HAD Committee member Gene Milone. There were both contributed oral and poster presentations, as well.

The HAD Booth attracted a steady stream of visitors on the exhibit floor. We now have a page-long list of potential new members. We appreciate HAD co-founder Ken Brecher and AAS Secretary John Graham stopping by, too. AAS has noticed us; rumor has it that other divisions will be encouraged to set up booths at AAS meetings.

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Thank you to our booth volunteers: Richard Jarrell, Dave Pierce, Dave Snead, Martin Harwit, Saul Adelman, Pat Seitzer, Brad Schaefer, Jim Lattis, Sara Schechner, Gene Milone, Gary Cameron, Jay Holberg, Joe Tenn, Peter Abrahams, Helmut Abt, Ken Launie, Marcel Agueros, Linda French, Arnold Heiser, Bob Wing, and Jennifer Bartlett.



Irene Osterbrock and Donald Olson

The Donald Osterbrock Memorial Lecture, introduced by Sara Schechner and presented by Donald Olson (“Van Gogh’s Starry Nights, Lincoln’s Moon, Shakespeare’s Stars, and More: Tales of Astronomy in Art, History, and Literature”), was enjoyed by hundreds of attendees. The festivities continued afterward, at a HAD “mini-banquet” organized by HAD Secretary-Treasurer Joe Tenn. Nearly thirty HAD members gathered at a local Greek restaurant. We were pleased to be joined by Irene Osterbrock and Dorothy Schaumberg, the former director of the Mary Lea Shane Archives of Lick Observatory.

At the HAD Business Meeting, Sara Schechner passed the plaque and gavel to the fifteenth HAD Chair, myself. Luckily for me, Sara remains on the HAD Committee as Past Chair. The Committee itself met the following day and appointed Joe Tenn to a full term as HAD Secretary-Treasurer. Of course, Joe has been doing exemplary work in the office already, while filling a vacated term. We thank Gene Milone and Jay Holberg for their service on the Committee, and welcome Jarita Holbrook (Vice Chair), Jim Lattis, and Kevin Krisciunas to the Committee.

The International Year of Astronomy USA “kick off” included the premiere of “Four Hundred

Years of Galileo’s Telescope.” Several HAD members appeared in this documentary film, including Owen Gingerich.

HAD members also were busy elsewhere at AAS Long Beach. Jim Lattis chaired a meeting of the Working Group for the Preservation of Astronomical Heritage. At the AAS Banquet, HAD member Mary Kay Hemenway was awarded the Society’s Education Prize. After the Division Meeting closed, a few of us (Joe Tenn, Donald Olson, Russ Doescher, and I) took HAD on the road and visited former Chair Ed Krupp at the newly-renovated Griffith Observatory.

Meanwhile, Jarita Holbrook used the day to do location filming for her upcoming documentary Hubble’s Diverse Universe. Virginia Trimble and David DeVorkin continued to plan their symposium for February’s AAAS meeting, entitled, “How Telescopes Made the Earth a Planet: 400 Years after Galileo.”

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From the Vice Chair

Jarita Holbrook, University of Arizona

In January 2009, I began my duties as vice chair of the Historical Astronomy Division. I inherited the obituary files from Chair Thomas Hockey and a backlog of 17 members whose obituaries have yet to appear and four new deaths that have been reported this year. The good news is that nearly all of the seventeen have authors assigned, and the same is true of two of the four new ones. Already, I owe a special thanks to Virginia Trimble for suggesting names of people to approach for newly-needed obituaries.

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From the Secretary-Treasurer

Joseph S. Tenn, Sonoma State University

Next month I will retire after 39 years of teaching physics and astronomy at Sonoma State University, so I will have more time to devote to my three history of astronomy activities: the [Bruce Medalists](#) website, the [Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage](#), and [HAD](#).

Perhaps the prospect of time on my hands contributed to my volunteering to organize a special session at the January 2010 HAD meeting in Washington, DC. The session will honor the sesquicentennial of the launching of the field by the publication of "[Chemical Analysis by Observation of Spectra](#)" by Gustav Kirchhoff and Robert Bunsen in 1860. The session will include talks by John Hearnshaw, Owen Gingerich, Matthew Stanley, Barbara Becker, Barbara Welther, Richard Jarrell, Vera Rubin, and David DeVorkin.

This will probably be the only special session, although it may be split up into two parts. Please plan to attend and to present contributed papers in other HAD sessions.

The HAD Prize Committee is now busily studying the works of the nominees for the seventh LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for Historical Astronomy. The recipient will be announced in the next issue of *HAD News* and will be invited to speak at the Washington meeting.

And finally, the HAD Committee is working on updating the bylaws, taking into account that in the age of the Internet it isn't necessary to spread activities such as elections over most of a year. Look for a ballot and information on the proposed changes in your e-mail box soon.

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HAD Past Chair Honored

Sara Schechner, immediate past chair of HAD, was awarded the 2008 Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize by the History of Science Society. According to the HSS the Prize is "is awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions to the teaching of history of science." The Prize Committee stated that Schechner, the David P. Wheatland Curator of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments at Harvard University, "creates hands-on experiences with technology from the past, thus giving material and tactile access to the history of science in this way," and that she has shown "great creativity and broad outreach in sharing the Collection for Historical Scientific Instruments..."

Congratulations, Sara!



Book Review

André Heck, Strasbourg Observatory

La Carte du Ciel, edited by Jérôme Lamy (EDP Sciences, Paris, 2008).

Initiated in 1887 by Admiral Ernest Mouchez, Director of the Paris Observatory, the *Carte du Ciel* was the first large-scale international astronomical project. It aimed at mapping and cataloguing millions of stars as faint as the 11th or 12th apparent magnitude by taking advantage of the then new technology of photography. Thus, over several decades, more than 22,000 photographic plates (on glass) were exposed and measured by some twenty observatories around the world. But the project was never completed. The *Astrographic Catalogue*, a by-product, was largely ignored until the combined *Hipparcos* and *Tycho* space missions revived an

[*continued on p. 6*](#)



IAU General Assembly, 2006

Years of International Astronomy and the International Year of Astronomy

Virginia Trimble, Univ. of Calif., Irvine

One sky connects us all, according to an AAS slogan in use during the IYA. This is not precisely true, as you will know if you have ever visited the hemisphere opposite to the one you are used to and looked up. Orion seems to be upside down, and even the sun may rise from the “wrong” horizon. If you want to achieve dense time coverage and avoid clouds, you will also need a range of longitudes. This is perhaps at least part of the reason that astronomy has been on the forefront of international cooperation in science.

The earliest long base line observation I know about is measurement of the earth’s circumference by Eratosthenes of Cyrene in the 3rd century BCE, using vertical sticks and Alexandria and Syene (roughly Aswan) at the summer solstice. We then skip very rapidly forward to note that, when Galileo put together observations from 1572 to deduce that the nova stella (now called Tycho’s supernova) was outside earth’s atmosphere, he had access to data from Denmark, Hesse, Italy, and some other places. His statistical method was a forerunner of least squares, but that belongs to a different story.

Greater formality characterized the “celestial police” of Franz Xaver von Zach (of Gotha). Twenty-four astronomers, scattered across the Europe of 1800, were to be assigned zones of the zodiac to scan for the planet expected between Mars and Jupiter, according to Bode’s law. But Giuseppe Piazzi (at Palermo, the southernmost of the crew) jumped the gun and found Ceres on 1

January 1801, before he knew he had been appointed to the search team. I suspect it was not in the 15° zone he was supposed to examine, but am not sure of this. Piazzi passed his data on to colleagues in Milan, Berlin (Bode himself), and Paris for orbit determination and recovery of the object, but it was Gauss (Zach’s pupil) in Braunschweig (Germany was not “a country” in those days) who solved the problem with what astronomers tend to count as the invention of least squares (well, perhaps only partly a different story!) Zach’s subsequent career is too much fun to compress here, but it including founding of the first two international astronomical journals (*Monatliche Correspondenz zur Beförderung der Erd- und Himmelskunde*, 1800–1813, and *Correspondence Astronomique*, 1818–1825). The first such journal to survive down to the present was *Astronomische Nachrichten*, invented by Heinrich Schumacher of Altona (then Denmark, now Germany) He formalized the process by which astronomers had exchanged letters, asking that everything (in “any” European language) be sent to him for compilation and redistribution. *AN* is all in English now, of course.

The collaborators were whole observatories rather than individual astronomers, though still all European, in 1867 when Argelander set out to engage the community in compiling a catalog of accurate positions of all stars down to 9th magnitude in the *Bonner Durchmusterung*. Most of the data collection was complete by 1910, and the catalog was published in parts from 1890 to 1954. You may know some stars by their AGK numbers.

The AGK process was, however, interrupted and partially superceded by the application of photography to positional astronomy. Breakout from purely European sites occurred with the plans for the *Carte du Ciel* and *Astrographic Catalogue*. The idea came from the then director at Paris, Admiral Ernest Mouchez, in 1887. Nineteen observatories were enlisted, including ones in Australia, South America, and South Africa (David Gill at the Cape was another prime mover.) Each was to have an identical astrograph of Parisian design and be responsible for a declination zone. A few finished quickly; others lagged and sometimes handed over parts of their zones to others. The majority of the plates date from around 1900 (though the final catalog was not published until 1964) and serve as the “first epoch” for proper motion studies using the Tycho Catalogue of the Hipparcos satellite (another mostly European collaboration) as the second epoch. No U.S. observa-

tories were involved in *Carte du Ciel*, which was perhaps an advantage.

The two major international collaborations in existence in 1914 were the 25-year-old Permanent International Committee of the *Carte due Ciel* and the much younger International Union for Co-operation in Solar Research, first convened in Chicago by George Ellery Hale in 1904. It had met only a few times when war broke out, and international travel for civilians nearly ceased. Still shorter-lived (1913–18) was the Bureau International de l'Heure, headed by Benjamin Baillaud, director of the Paris Observatory and eventually also first president of the IAU.

The 1919 Treaty of Versailles abolished all previously-existing international organizations for cooperation in the sciences (and other fields) and urged the prompt creation of new ones, including only the victorious Allied Powers.

Under this constraint, scientists assembled in Brussels in 1919 to reorganize themselves into an International Research Council (since 1931 ICSU) and many disciplinary unions. Astronomy (the IAU) was among the very first, its initial members signing on in 1920. These were Belgium, Canada, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the USA. Other countries were allowed into the IAU as soon as they had adhered to the International Research Council and its rules and paid their dues. Countries neutral during World War I, including the Netherlands, Romania, and Switzerland, joined in 1922-23, in time for the first real General Assembly in Rome in 1922. This was attended officially by F.J.M. Stratton of the UK, who eventually became the last astronomer to have been registered at every General Assembly, and by the young Jan Oort, so that he became the last astronomer who had been at every General Assembly more than 50 years later.

Solar Physics, Time Standards, and the *Carte du Ciel* were among the initial Commissions of the IAU, the last handicapped by the nonparticipation of the many German observatories that had been involved. This quickly led to an IAU rule, still in effect, that individuals could participate even if their countries were not members.

The so-called Central Powers, Germany, Austria, and Hungary, were admitted to the IAU only after World War II. A few new members join at each General Assembly; for instance, Nigeria and Serbia & Montenegro joined in 2003. Many more are eligible, and a few drop out from time to

time, the normal difficulty being payment of dues. Current membership includes 64 National Members, but, perhaps more important, the IAU is unique among the international scientific unions in having as members not just nations or academies or institutions, but also individual scientists, approximately 9400 at last count. This is, I think, the most important aspect in which international astronomy differs from cross-boundary collaborations in physics, chemistry, or biology. An IUPAP Commission (including Astrophysics) is limited to 14 members; an IAU one can have hundreds.

I therefore expect, or at least hope, that IYA will have a greater long-term impact on world science and culture than did the 2005 World Year of Physics. It is not too late to involve yourself and your institution. Please see the general website, <http://www.astronomy2009.org/> and branch out from there to something like 137 cooperating countries, more than 120 with their own websites and contact people, to find out what is going on and how you can contribute.

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Cultural Astronomy Summer School

At the June 2009 meeting of the AAS in Pasadena, HAD will present the Cultural Astronomy Summer School (CASS).

According to its originator and director, HAD Chair Thomas Hockey, "The Cultural Astronomy Summer School will explore the place of astronomy in human culture, including the history of astronomy, ethnoastronomy, and archaeoastronomy, and topics such as time finding, calendars, and navigation by the stars. The course will enrich the current training of professional astronomers by giving them tools and themes to use in undergraduate education or public outreach programs. It also will make them more familiar with the wonderfully rich heritage of their profession and the historical importance of astronomy in people's lives."

Three courses will be offered over two days: History of Astronomy by JoAnn Eisberg, Archaeo- and Ethnoastronomy by Steve McCluskey, and Legacy Astronomy (of the Naked Eye) by E.C. Krupp.

The school is directed primarily toward graduate students and postdocs in astronomy who may soon be teaching astronomy but have not had much exposure to these topics.

La Carte du Ciel

(cont. from p. 3)

interest in astrometry and in a vast range of related astrophysical and cosmological issues.

Because of the enormous resources, both human and material, it required, the *Carte du Ciel* has often been blamed for delaying the development of astrophysics in Europe. But other factors were also responsible for this, e.g., the lack of interest in the first half of the 20th century in astrophysics by European astronomy “barons,” who were traditionally oriented towards positional, theoretical, or solar astronomy. Junior astronomers, attracted by more modern fields, had generally to look for a position outside Europe.

This volume edited by Lamy gathers together nine contributions dealing with several historical aspects of the *Carte du Ciel* project, as well as with its sociological, institutional and organizational context. The emphasis is deliberately French, which can be understood given the origin of the project and the major contribution from France, but foreign readers would have probably preferred a more diversified approach. Only one chapter is centered on a foreign observatory, Potsdam (Algiers was French at the time). The *Hipparcos* space mission is introduced in one contribution and shows how estimates of costs and a timeline must be part of any viable scientific project today.

The book is well illustrated, and readers will find many more references in the individual chapters, all in French, some of them with quotations in English. All in all, I found that volume quite informative and to be recommended to people interested in the history of astronomy (provided they read French).

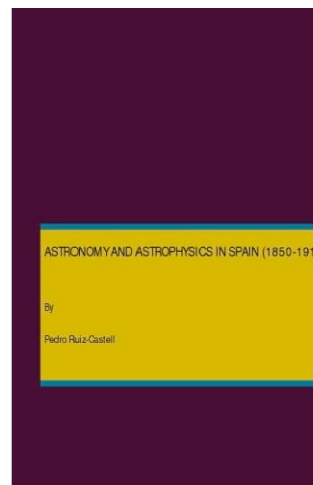
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Thank You, Donors

HAD is grateful to the following individuals who made contributions during the year 2008:

To HAD: Jennifer L. Bartlett, Antoinette Beiser, Michael W. Friedlander, Thomas L. Gandet, Marie R. Lukac, Marc W. Pound, Virginia L. Trimble.

To the Doggett Prize fund: Ian Bartky, Charles W. Bowers, Thomas E. Corbin, Brenda G. Corbin, Roy H. Garstang, Robert Hindsley, George H. Kaplan, Marie R. Lukac, Stephen C. McCluskey, Robert A. McCutcheon, Jean-Louis Trudel, Curtis Wilson.



Book Review

Thomas Hockey, University of Northern Iowa

Astronomy and Astrophysics in Spain (1850-1914) by Pedro Ruiz-Castell (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle, 2008).

In 2008 I attended the Cosmology across Cultures conference in Granada, Spain, and wanted to “bone up” on Spanish astronomy. Luckily for me, this book came out in January of that year. Its author is on the staff of the Museo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología in Madrid; this volume is a version of his recent Oxford doctoral dissertation. Readers may recognize the names of advisors Stephen Johnston and Victor Navarro-Brotóns.

The book is not a history of Hispanic astronomy. It considers a time after Spain’s colonial period. Moreover, Portugal does not exist. Instead, author Ruiz-Castell promotes a thesis that Spanish national astronomy emerged from a nadir, one hundred and fifty years ago, due to an astronomical coincidence.

Why did Spanish astronomy need such a stimulus? Admittedly, I would have had a difficult time with context if I had not studied up on the history of Spain a bit before my trip. In the nineteenth century, Spanish astronomy did not benefit from the patronage bequeathed upon other European astronomies by their nations’ public, religious, and upper-economic sectors. (Think of the “gentleman astronomers” of Britain.) On the practical side, Spain no longer counted on maintaining a naval fleet second to none, and technology had obviated the need for celestial determination of longitude, any way.

Ruiz-Castell effectively argues that astronomy within the borders of Spain received a boost because of several total solar eclipses visible within that

country, during a short time interval, at the turn of the twentieth century. These eclipses attracted much scientific as well as popular attention inasmuch as they occurred during the rise of astrophysics but before a satisfactory solution to the problem of observing the higher solar atmosphere out of eclipse.

Jingoism is avoided. The author neither raises successes to the level of the heroic, nor demonizes failures. He is evenhanded with Francisco Iñiguez, who appears to have been a “Peter Principle” appointment to the Directorship of the Madrid Observatory. (I only winced once: reading of Iñiguez’s astronomers obtaining fine solar eclipse photographs, which the Director then “retouches” with a pen!)

While at times repetitive, the book is written in impeccable English. Sometimes Ruiz-Castell’s paragraphs are reduced to lists of observers and instruments, but not to the extent of becoming tedious. Spanish quotations are translated skillfully (though Ruiz-Castell’s editors maintain the now somewhat anachronistic habit, among English-language publications, of leaving French quotations in the original). I could have used a couple more maps—perhaps one of the 1900 solar-eclipse path.

More significantly, I would like to learn how Spanish astronomy survived the Fascist era and became the effective enterprise it is today. Perhaps in a future book by Ruiz-Castell?

Astronomy and Astrophysics in Spain (1850-1914) is published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, a 2007 start-up that, apparently, has nothing to do with Cambridge. They are responsible for dressing this nice book in the ugliest dust jacket I have ever seen.

Recent books to read along with this one: Pang, Alex Soojung-Kim, *Empire and the Sun: Victorian Solar Eclipse Expeditions* (Stanford University Press, 2002) and Udías, Agustín, *Searching the Heavens and the Earth: The History of Jesuit Observatories* (Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2003).
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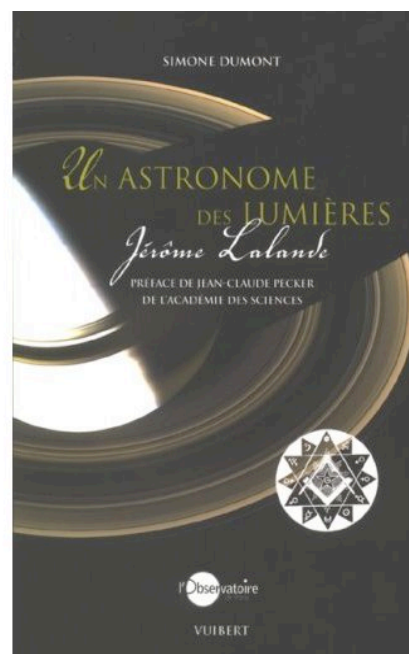
Book Review

André Heck, *Strasbourg Observatory*

Un Astronome des Lumières: Jérôme Lalande by Simone Dumont (Ed. Vuibert/Observatoire de Paris, Paris, 2007).

Before I read this volume, Jérôme Lalande (1732-1807) was for me just a name in astronomy

books and manuals, occasionally associated to an ephemeral constellation sounding like a joke, Lalande’s Cat, proposed by himself and drawn by Johann Elert Bode in his 1801 atlas. Now Lalande (or Lefrançois de Lalande, later Delalande or de la Lande, and finally Lalande) appears to me not only as a man of flesh and blood, but also as a formidable hard worker who influenced his times. Dumont’s style is fluid. Her discourse is very pleasant to follow as it leads the reader through the various stages of Lalande’s life. The wealth of information provided is impressive, resulting in a remarkably well-documented volume.



Dumont extensively uses excerpts and quotations, which efficiently help set the context in the wording of the times. This gives also a sense of Lalande’s own character—he was said to be bad-tempered by some. But I would simply rate him as strongly tempered—quite likely the moving force behind the enormous amount of his achievements, both inside and outside astronomy. For example he was deeply involved in freemasonry. Lalande’s yearly reviews (in the *Journal des Savants*, *La Connaissance des Temps*, and other journals) are still used today by historians of astronomy. The prize (Gold Medal or the equivalent in cash) he founded in 1802 was bestowed until 1970 (when it was merged with other prizes) by the French Academy of Sciences to the person who made the most intriguing observation or the one that had been most useful to the progress of astronomy, in France or elsewhere.

The first recipient was Guiseppe Piazzi in 1803 for his discovery of Ceres on 1 January 1801.

In 1763, Lalande traveled to England at his own expense. He met with James Short, the constructor of optical instruments, and with Nevil Maskelyne who was to become Astronomer Royal two years later. He attended meetings of the Society of Arts and of the Royal Society of London (of which he had been/was going to be elected as correspondent/member respectively). In 1776, Lalande considered returning to England, an interest possibly triggered by Ramsden's instruments and Dollond's glasses. But later the construction by Herschel of a large telescope became the decisive motivation. That second trip took place in 1778. Lalande met numerous personalities and visited many places. Herschel's observatory was qualified as the "centre of astronomy in the universe". His instrument was definitely "constructed by a musician".

All illustrations are printed in black and white, something quite understandable for historical reproductions, even if some color here and there might have made a more appealing volume. Some readers would probably make good use of an exhaustive index, including also subjects in addition to just people's names – a suggestion for a possible second edition. But those reservations do not remove anything substantial from this wonderful contribution to the gallery of astronomers' biographies. It ought to be quickly translated into English, too.

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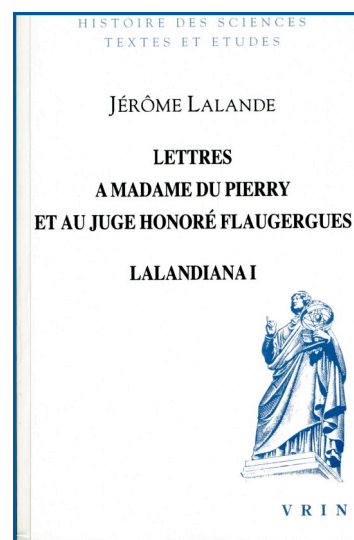
Book Review

André Heck, Strasbourg Observatory

Lettres à Madame du Pierry et au Juge Honoré Flaugergues—Lalandiana I by Jérôme Lalande, edited, annotated and commented by Simone Dumont and Jean-Claude Pecker (Ed. Vrin, Paris, 2007).

This book gathers together letters exchanged between Jérôme Lalande and two correspondents: Louise Dupiéry (or du Pierry), who had been more than a friend for Lalande, and Honoré Flaugergues, a conciliation magistrate in Viviers and an "amateur" astronomer. Dupiéry was also occasionally involved in astronomical activities.

Lalande left a voluminous correspondence, today spread over many libraries in Europe and the United States. The letters offered in this compilation have been selected by two experts on Lalande's life and activities. The texts have been edited whenever necessary: punctuation and accentuation often neglected by Lalande, usage of upper-case characters according to modern standards, rectification of spelling mistakes and explanation of abbreviations sometimes abundantly used by Lalande. The letters are extensively commented and annotated. Their chronology has been restored whenever possible, some of them being undated.



A substantial index (56 pages) of names mentioned in the correspondence provides the readers with a context for the characters involved. Flaugergues himself received a dedicated biography. An astronomical section gathers together a number of definitions and concepts for non-specialists.

Technically the book is well presented, with a few illustrations (all b/w). The price (€25) is a bargain, especially considering the cost of reproduction of archive documents from official institutions. The editors and the publisher have to be commended for making available such a resource to present and future generations of historians of astronomy. We ought to see more such contributions

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The IYA and HAD

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With storytelling in the group's name, CAST has partnered with storytellers throughout the United States to do public events combining storytelling with telescope viewing. Two such events were held in Tucson in December and January, combined with fundraising through Barnes & Noble. For these events I collected funny stories about observing and being an astronomer from the Tucson astronomy community to tell the parents during the professional storytellers' breaks. Our D.C. area member Elizabeth Wallace presented Starrytelling™ to schoolchildren in the Baltimore area and at STScI in January. These were daytime events with telescopes focusing on the Sun (with proper filters), Venus, and the Moon. CAST's cornerstone project takes storytelling to another level: Celestial Cinema. CAST has proposed making five films for IYA2009. The first, which is funded by a NASA E/PO grant is "Hubble's Diverse Universe" focusing on the lives and research of minority astronomers. The trailer can be viewed at

<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~holbrook/HubbleT.wmv>.

The second is "Skies Alive!" a short film and animation competition that will result in a film consisting of the winners that may be shown during the IYA2009 closing ceremonies. "Hagoromo" tells a Japanese folktale about the stars. The documentary "5 min at 7° N: A Total Eclipse in Jaluit, Marshall Islands" will follow a group of college students, K12 teachers, and experts as they learn about the Marshall Islands and experience the total solar eclipse. The final film will be a film about the CAST activities during IYA2009.

The cultural astronomy projects focus on creating resources that can be accessed on our website: the Stellarium guide with celestial lore is an example. We are working to create a site related to the USA Heritage months and a page about creating cultural astronomy walking maps. The goal of these is to highlight the link that exists between astronomy and culture. Finally, CAST has partnered with HAD to create the first Cultural Astronomy Summer School for the AAS summer meeting in Pasadena. The summer school is to enrich the normal astronomy curriculum by exploring "the place of astronomy in human culture".

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Minutes of HAD Business Meeting 5 January 2009, Long Beach, CA

I. The meeting was called to order by chair Sara Schechner.

The minutes of last year's meeting, which are available online as part of [HAD News #72](#), were approved.

II. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Joe Tenn reported that the HAD website at <http://www.aas.org/had/> now contains titles of all papers presented at all HAD meetings (and other history papers presented to AAS) with links to abstracts, what is believed to be an almost complete set of *HAD News*, links to all obituaries published in *BAAS*, and a selection of links to important online sources for history of astronomy. *HAD News* is now published regularly in April and October. Submission of short articles, book reviews, and other items of interest to the membership are encouraged. Deadlines are the equinoxes.

Income and expenditures for the first 11 months of 2008 were announced. Final totals for the year are posted elsewhere in this newsletter.

III. Committee Reports and ongoing HAD Activities

A. Nominating Committee — Don Yeomans (read by Sara Schechner)

The 2008 HAD Nominating Committee consisted of Don Yeomans (Chair), JoAnn Palmeri, and John Briggs. The process began with each Nominating Committee member providing, in ranked order, suggestions for the HAD Vice-chair, and two new HAD Committee members. Our list of potential nominees was augmented by a few additional suggestions from the current HAD Committee itself. Once the potential nominees were gathered together for consideration, the Nominating Committee reached consensus for the following nominees, and each nominee agreed to serve, if elected by the membership:

HAD Vice-Chair: Jarita Holbrook (Univ. of Arizona)

HAD Committee members: Kevin Krisciunas (Texas A&M) and James Lattis (Univ. of Wisconsin)

Due to unavoidable circumstances, these candidates were presented to the HAD Committee

on September 6, 2008, later than the bylaws allowed. The HAD Committee then temporarily suspended the bylaws.

Each candidate provided a brief biography and statement for the October 2008 *HAD News*, and HAD members were asked to cast their votes online at the AAS web site or send their ballots directly to Joe Tenn, the HAD Secretary-Treasurer.

All of the above candidates were elected.

B. Obituary Committee — Thomas Hockey

The Obituary Committee consists (formally) of Thomas Hockey, HAD Vice Chair, and Virginia Trimble, appointed by the AAS. In addition, many former HAD officers have provided helpful advice and guidance. Volunteers, especially those willing to do some research on our harder-to-place deceased subjects, are welcome.

In this year's *BAAS*, 21 obituaries include 15 photographs. Most of the obituaries include the basic data set requested in the Obituary Guidelines, written by former Chair Thomas Williams. We welcome input from the AAS membership about what further information obituaries should contain.

Moreover, we appreciate AAS members who keep an eye out for notice of AAS member deaths. The AAS office may not otherwise learn of the passing of those who let their membership lapse in old age.

C. HAD Prize Committee — Sara Schechner

The former Doggett Prize Committee has been renamed the HAD Prize Committee, since it will now be responsible for selecting recipients of two prizes: the LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for Historical Astronomy, awarded in even-numbered years, and the HAD Book Prize, to be awarded in odd-numbered years beginning in 2011. The Committee is chaired by the immediate Past Chair of HAD, and also includes the current Chair, the Secretary-Treasurer, and two at-large members proposed by the HAD Chair and approved by the HAD Committee. Current members are Sara Schechner (chair), Thomas Hockey, Joe Tenn, Michael Hoskin, and Brenda Corbin.

At the meeting of the HAD Committee in January 2008 it was decided to change the criteria for the Doggett Prize and to introduce the HAD Book Prize. The revised rules for the Doggett Prize are now posted on the HAD website at <http://www.aas.org/had/doggett/doggettprizerules.html>. Rules for the HAD Book Prize will be established this year by the HAD Committee.

Nominations for the seventh LeRoy Doggett Prize are due by March 15. Details are on the HAD website.

Nominations for the first HAD Book Prize will be requested later this year.

D. The HAD Booth — Thomas Hockey

Tom reported that the booth has become both a place to recruit new HAD members from those attending AAS meetings and also a gathering place for HAD members during the meetings. Although there were significant costs for materials the first year, the booth costs almost nothing in subsequent years. The AAS not only provides it at no cost, but it is encouraging other divisions to establish their own booths.

E. Donald E. Osterbrock Memorial Lecture — Sara Schechner

It was reported that Donald W. Olson of Texas State University would present "Van Gogh's Starry Nights, Lincoln's Moon, Shakespeare's Stars, and More: Tales of Astronomy in Art, History, and Literature" to the entire AAS that evening. The special lecture was made possible by a generous gift made in memory of former HAD Chair and Doggett Prize recipient Donald E. Osterbrock.

F. AAS Working Group on the Preservation of Astronomical Heritage (WGAH) — Jim Lattis (This is not a HAD Committee but an AAS working group.)

Jim replaced Steve McCluskey as chair during 2008. He reported that the Working Group is primarily concerned with finding a place for *Ap.J.* correspondence and for old astronomical plate collections, and also with the fates of 19th century observatories. Elizabeth Alvarez suggested further collaboration with NOAO. KPNO will be 50 this year. David DeVorkin is the link between WGAH and NOAO.

IV. Future Activities and Meetings

A. Cultural Astronomy Summer School — Thomas Hockey

The HAD Committee approved a proposal by Thomas Hockey to present a HAD-sponsored Cultural Astronomy Summer School at an AAS meeting, preferably the June 2009 meeting in Pasadena.

The Cultural Astronomy Summer School (CASS) will explore the place of astronomy in human culture, including the history of astronomy,

ethnoastronomy, and archaeoastronomy, and topics such as time finding, calendars, and navigation by the stars. The course will enrich the current training of professional astronomers by giving them tools and themes to use in undergraduate education or public outreach programs. It also will make them more familiar with the wonderfully rich heritage of their profession and the historical importance of astronomy in people’s lives.

The proposal is now before the AAS. [It was approved.]

B. The January 2010 meeting in Washington

Sara Schechner called for suggestions for special sessions at our next regular meeting.

Joe Tenn proposed a special session devoted to the first century of astronomical spectroscopy, which began 150 years ago with the 1860 publication by Kirchhoff and Bunsen in *Annalen der Physik und der Chemie*. [The following day Joe volunteered to organize it.]

There was discussion of a possible field trip to either the old or the current U.S. Naval Observatory or to one of the museums of the Smithsonian Institution. Jennifer Bartlett expressed an interest in hosting the group at USNO.

V. Announcements

Those in attendance were reminded of the upcoming Notre Dame History of Astronomy Workshop: The History of Astronomy after 400 Years of the Telescope. Details are available in HAD News #73 or at the workshop website at <http://www.nd.edu/~histast/>.

It was announced that a new documentary movie, “400 Years of the Telescope: A Journey of Science, Technology and Thought,” would be shown the following evening to the AAS (with free samples of Galileo’s Astronomical Ale) and on PBS in April.

David Pierce announced the availability of summer teaching positions at The Summer Science Program for gifted high school students. (<http://www.summerscience.org/home/index.php>).

Linda French reminded the members of the HAD poster session that day.

VI. Transfer of Leadership

Outgoing Chair Sara Schechner read a certificate of appreciation to be sent to Don Yeomans, who concluded his six years of service as Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair. Unfortunately, Don was unable to attend to receive HAD’s gratitude in person.

Sara then transferred the gavel and *Ich Bin Had* plaque to new chair Thomas Hockey.

VII. Thanks and Adjournment

Chair Thomas Hockey thanked the outgoing HAD Committee members, Jay Holberg and Eugene Milone, for their service, welcomed the new officers and committee members, and concluded the meeting.

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Treasurer’s Report

HAD Account

Balance 12/31/07 **\$25,258.61**

Revenue 2008

Individual Dues	1732.00
Contributions	283.00
Interest	760.56
Distr. Market Value	<u>-5758.94</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	-2983.38

Expenses 2008

Contracted Personnel	2801.93
Supplies	1349.94
Mailing Costs	41.36
Service Charges	53.00
Inter-unit Services	<u>195.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	4441.23
Net Change 2008	<u>-\$7424.61</u>
Balance 12/31/08	\$17,833.99

Doggett Prize Fund

Balance 12/31/07 **\$33,291.00**

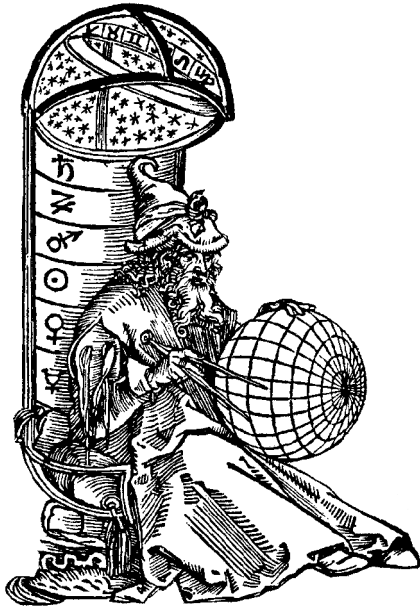
Revenue 2008

Contributions	461.00
Interest	1002.55
Distr. Market Value	<u>-7591.09</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	-6127.54

Expenses 2008

Recipient Travel	<u>729.70</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	729.70
Net Change 2008	<u>-\$6857.24</u>
Balance 12/31/08	\$26,433.39

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Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society

Had News #74, April 2009, edited by Joe Tenn
Please send contributions for the next issue,
comments, etc. to joe.tenn@sonoma.edu.
Contributions are due by the next equinox.

A complete version of this newsletter, with color
photographs and active links, may be found at the
HAD website at <http://www.aas.org/had/>.

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