

H·A·D NEWS

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

Number 76 * April 2010

It's Election Time

As it does every two years, HAD is holding an election to choose a new Vice Chair and two members of the HAD Committee.

The Vice Chair is in charge of organizing the preparation of obituaries of all member of the American Astronomical Society and, after two years, becomes Chair, and two years later Past Chair. The Chair's duties should be obvious. The Past Chair heads the HAD Prize Committee and the nominating committee. The new Vice Chair and Committee members will join the HAD Committee at the end of the January 2011 meeting in Seattle, at which time current Vice Chair Jarita Holbrook will become Chair and current Chair Thomas Hockey will become Past Chair. Secretary-Treasurer Joe Tenn will continue as the sixth member of the HAD Committee.

The election is to be held 1–30 June 2010, with those elected to take office immediately after the HAD Business Meeting on 10 January 2011. At the same election, assuming the AAS Council approves in May, members will be asked to vote on the proposed revisions to the HAD Bylaws, now available on the [HAD website](#).

The list of candidates is as follows:

[*continued on p. 9*](#)



Book Prize Named for Osterbrock

The HAD Book Prize has a new name: When the first prize is awarded in January 2011 it will be the Donald E. Osterbrock Book Prize. The HAD Committee agreed to name it in memory of the distinguished astronomer, author, long-time HAD member, past chair, and recipient of the LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for lifetime achievement in the history of astronomy. The naming was initially contingent on raising a minimum of \$10,000. A small number of Osterbrock friends and admirers were solicited in February, and the minimum was soon pledged. Funding will be used to bring prize recipients to the meetings where they will be presented with the prize and invited to give a lecture.

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From the Chair

Thomas Hockey, University of Northern Iowa

In early October I was invited by AAS President John Huchra to attend a meeting of the AAS Executive Council. It was an opportunity for other Division representatives and me to share Division activities and concerns with the Council members. In November I visited College Park, Maryland, for a meeting of AIP member-society history chairs and liaisons. This conference was organized by Gregory Good, new Director of the AIP Center for History of Physics. It is noteworthy to observe that the AAS grants unusual prestige to history. Most similar professional organizations do not have a formal history division like HAD; instead there is a "history committee" or an informal affinity group of members interested in history.

The HAD meeting overlapping January's 215th AAS meeting (Washington, DC) began with a special session devoted to the 150th anniversary of spectroscopy. Session organizer Joe Tenn went to the "ends of the Earth"—literally—to invite John Hearnshaw (from New Zealand) to lead off. Thanks, for coming, John, and thanks to the speakers from the U.S. and Canada—Matthew Stanley, Barbara Becker, Barbara Welther, Richard Jarrell, David DeVorkin, and Vera Rubin—as well.

In other HAD sessions, Linda French explained why some thought John Goodricke was not buried in the Goodricke family tomb. Brenda Corbin told us what Edward Holden wrote for *Cosmopolitan*. Kevin Krisciunas determined the eccentricity of the Moon's orbit—without a telescope. Among other things! We got a close up look at Sara Schechner's Alvan Clark Telescope quilt (*HAD News* #75). And the kind folk at the Naval Observatory arranged a guided tour of the

"old" Naval Observatory, an infrequently-visited site full of astronomical history in DC.

Notre Dame's Michael Crowe accepted the seventh LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for Historical Astronomy with a talk entitled, "Seventeen Key Developments in the History of the Extraterrestrial Life Debate," delivered to a packed AAS plenary session. Many of Crowe's family members and former students were able to attend. Thank you to Sara Schechner (Chair) and the rest of the HAD Prize Committee for orchestrating a fascinating evening and well deserved honor. Afterward, no fewer than 48 HAD members and friends gathered at a local Mexican restaurant to toast Mike. Thanks go to our minibanquet organizer, Joe Tenn.

The HAD Committee met in Washington. We decided to provide a small grant to young scholars who wish to present a paper at a HAD meeting session. Previously we had agreed upon rules for the new HAD Book Prize and solicited nominees.

At the annual Business Meeting, discussion centered mainly on proposals to change the Division's Bylaws in order to, among other things, reflect modern electronic communication. We made plans for the HAD to meet again next January, in Seattle, site of the 217th AAS meeting.



Special Session Speakers and Organizer

Front: Barbara Becker, Matthew Stanley, John Hearnshaw. Rear: Richard Jarrell, Barbara Welther, Joseph Tenn, Vera Rubin, David DeVorkin.

We are grateful to the American Astronomical Society for establishing a special registration rate for HAD Affiliates attending only the HAD meeting. Also new in 2010: Look for obituaries, edited by the HAD-administered Obituary Committee, to appear in the on-line version of *Physics Today*.

Special thanks go to Arnie Heiser, for running this year's HAD Booth on the AAS meeting exhibit floor. We appreciate the time of those HAD

members who took a turn at the booth. They include Peter Abrahams, Jennifer Bartlett, Brenda Corbin, Linda French, Tom Hockey, Wayne Osborn, Nancy Roman, Ken Rumstay, Patrick Seitzer, Joe Tenn, and Robert Wing.

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From the Vice Chair

Jarita Holbrook, University of Arizona

The following is an update of the status of the AAS obituaries. I have found authors for obituaries for 31 of the 42 members who have passed away. Seven authors have already submitted their obituaries to be published in 2010. For the following two members we have been searching for authors for several years: David S. Peregrine and Robert F. Doolittle II. Since last year I have been searching for authors for Julius H. Cahn and Martin A. Pomerantz. The remaining are recent deaths where I am querying potential authors but no luck thus far: Kenneth L. Cashdollar, Richard Frank Donnelly, Glenn Frye, Chushiro Hayashi, Darrel Hoff, and Michael E. Van Steenberg. Those HAD members who have promised to be authors – please get your submission in as soon as possible. Thank You!

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From the Secretary-Treasurer

Joseph S. Tenn, Sonoma State University

Please vote in the election, which will be held in June and will be conducted electronically again for most HAD members. Those who wish a paper ballot may obtain one by contacting me. In addition to electing a new Vice Chair and two new members of the HAD Committee, we will vote on updating the bylaws, taking into account that in the age of the Internet most actions can be taken much more rapidly than

when the bylaws were written. The proposed revisions have been submitted to the Council of the AAS, and we hope the Council will approve them at its May meeting. You can read them now on the HAD website. Look for a ballot and further information on the proposed changes in your e-mail box in June.



We had excellent talks and a very good turnout for the special session on the first century of spectroscopy at the Washington meeting. I am pleased to announce that papers based on these talks and one contributed paper on spectroscopy will be published in the July issue of the *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*.

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From the Past Chair

Sara J. Schechner, Harvard University

The HAD Prize Committee has begun deliberations over submissions for the first HAD Book Prize. Thirteen books were nominated. While all are scholarly and well-researched, the books are a diverse bunch not only in topic but also in style, ranging from academic and technical to popular treatments of their subjects.

The Prize Committee consists of Marc Rothenberg, Brenda Corbin, Joe Tenn, Tom Hockey, and myself (as chair). We will announce the winning book in September.

As Past Chair, it was also my duty to chair the HAD Nominating Committee. Other members of this committee were Alan Hirshfeld and Dan Green. You will see the names of candidates we nominated elsewhere in this newsletter.

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Michael Crowe receiving the LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for lifetime achievement in the history of astronomy from HAD prize committee chair Sara Schechner at the Washington meeting in January 2010.

HAD Establishes Student Travel Award

Starting with the Seattle meeting in January 2011, HAD is offering to award \$500 to a graduate student who will present a paper at the meeting. Any current graduate student is eligible. A student may not receive the award more than once.

Details about the award and application procedures are posted on the HAD website.

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Former HAD Chair Honored

Virginia Trimble, who served as HAD chair from 1999 to 2001, is to receive the 2010 George Van Biesbroeck Prize, which is “normally awarded every two years and honors a living individual for long-term extraordinary or unselfish service to astronomy, often beyond the requirements of his or her paid position.”

According to the AAS, which awards the prize, “The 2010 George Van Biesbroeck Prize is awarded to Dr. Virginia L. Trimble for her many years of dedicated service to the national and international communities of astronomers, including her expert assessments of progress in all fields of astrophysics and her significant roles in

supporting organizations, boards, committees and foundations in the cause of astronomy.”



Congratulations, Virginia.

Book Review

Thomas Hockey, University of Northern Iowa

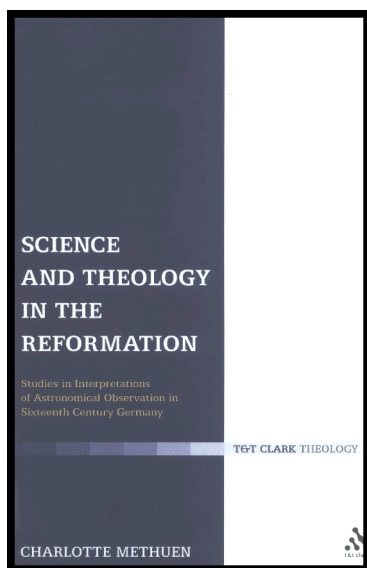
Science and Theology in the Reformation: Studies in Interpretations of Astronomical Observation in Sixteenth Century Germany, by Charlotte Methuen (T&T Clark, London, 2008).

Why do I review a book in the T&T Clark Theology series? The astronomy hides in the subtitle. However, Part II (out of III), in this collection of previously published essays, indeed dwells upon the impact upon theology of astronomical phenomena.

In the history of astronomy, we tend to think of the late 1500s as the interregnum between Nicholas Copernicus and Johannes Kepler. However, a number of astronomical events took place during these decades, so notable as to enter into the lexicon of the pulpit. Several prominent conjunctions took place, the Comet of 1577 appeared, and a total solar eclipse was visible in Europe. (Fred Espenak’s and Jean Meeus’s *Five Millennium Canon of Solar Eclipses* shows the 1567 eclipse to have been partial in Germany.) Most spectacular was the supernova of 1572. In related news of the day, the year 1582 saw Pope Gregory institute a reform of the Julian calendar. It was a busy fifteen years! The celestial phenomena were recognized as God’s intervention in a corrupt world. The calendar reform, though, was a human deed, and met with skepticism in Protestant lands.

For me, the most interesting selection from the rest of the book was Chapter 7, on “my man” J.

Kepler. In it, Methuen discusses how Kepler borrowed from John Calvin's doctrine of accommodation: The gist of this idea is that God is great and so far beyond us as to be unknowable. Yet, being a nice God, he communicates with us in anthropomorphic language we are likely to understand. All this selectively literalist interpretation of the Bible, to which we Protestants are subjected today, is a modern invention.



Science and Theology in the Reformation consists of eight chapters, including an Introduction. At 128 pages, I might have hoped for a bit more on payment of my \$86. On the other hand, I do not advocate selling books by the kilo. Over ten percent of this book is bibliography. Clearly the author spent more time reading than writing, and that is not a bad thing.

Charlotte Methuen is described on the dust jacket as a Lecturer at Oxford University and as a Canon. I am pretty certain that she is the only Canon on my bookshelf! There are a lot of definitions for the word "canon," but I take the appropriate one in this case to be a clergyman affiliated with a collegiate church.

Science and Theology in the Reformation reminds me of *The Calvinist Copernicans: The Reception of the New Astronomy in the Dutch Republic, 1575 – 1750* by Rienk Vermij (Amsterdam: Continuum, 2002). More than just covering another country, Methuen's book differs from Vermij's in that it does not focus on cosmology. Also, Methuen references Kenneth J. Howell's

Copernican Cosmology and Biblical Interpretation in Early Modern Science (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2002). 2002 was a good year for God and historians of astronomy.

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Letter to the Editor

How do I convey the wonder of my first Historical Astronomy Division meeting in which I was a presenter? As a member of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, my sadness at the closing of Oak Ridge Observatory in Harvard, Massachusetts was brightened by the dream of David DeVorkin to create a public observatory on the National Mall. David's plan was to set up a telescope at the National Air and Space Museum where the public could experience the wonder of seeing Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and the Sun during the daytime hours. With the relocation of the 16-inch Boller and Chivens from Oak Ridge, the Public Observatory Project became reality in 2009.

The Boller and Chivens had been dedicated to Chester Sheldon Cook, and I knew that the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston had archival information, which would make a superb oral paper. Everything came into place when my abstract was accepted and I was able to attend the 2010 History of Astronomy meeting in Washington, D.C. on January 4th 2010. It was a great opportunity to meet the people that I had emailed and who had helped my presentation in many ways.

Sitting in the hotel lobby as all the students and young people streamed in for the day, I was filled with the warmth that comes from knowing that the AAS must be doing something right. The many people who directed the throngs to the correct place kept things flowing in an organized fashion. The Woodley Market was a sunny place with tables arranged where students and advisors could discuss their concerns over breakfast or coffee. Spontaneous conversations occurred as young people and advisors met in the lobby, which served as a meeting area where people arrived and registered. The center obelisk was enjoyed by all who passed on their way to conference rooms and to their future desires.

Anna Sudaric Hillier

Book Review

Sara J. Schechner, Harvard University

Eastern Astrolabes by David Pingree. (Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, Chicago, 2009).

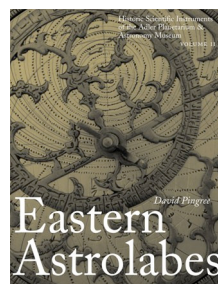
I was present at the conception of this book twenty-five years ago. I recall the moment when Roderick and Marjorie Webster, trustees of the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, formally invited David Pingree (1933-2005) to catalogue the eastern astrolabes and related Islamic instruments in the Planetarium's collection. I had just arrived in Chicago to take up the position of Curator of the history-of-astronomy collection at the Adler Planetarium, and one of my first initiatives was to secure funding for an interpretive catalogue of the scientific instruments. There was no debate on who should document the Adler's world-renowned collection of astrolabes. Rod and Madge would prepare the catalogue of the western astrolabes with my help, and David Pingree, professor in Brown University's Department of the History of Mathematics, would do the eastern ones.

To understand why Pingree was an outstanding choice, readers will need a brief history of the planispheric astrolabe.

The astrolabe is arguably the most sophisticated and elegant of early astronomical instruments. Fashioned of brass and mathematically complex, the astrolabe was both an observational tool and an analogue computer that could be used to solve astronomical, astrological, mathematical, and geographic problems.

Although based on mathematics from the time of Hipparchus (circa 150 B.C.), the astrolabe was not invented until sometime before the late fourth century in the Hellenistic world (quite possibly in Alexandria). The earliest known treatise was written in Greek by Hypatia's father, Theon of Alexandria, at that time. By the seventh century we have treatises in Syriac, followed by others in Arabic in the eighth. Early production was centered on Ḥarrān, an ancient pagan city in northeastern Syria, where people worshipped the stars and scholars shared their interests in Greek philosophy, astronomy, and the astrolabe with Syrian neighbors who were Christians. Under 'Abbāsīd rule (established in A.D. 750), Muslim astrolabists flourished in Syria. Sometime before the tenth century, knowledge of the astrolabe spread eastward from the Syro-Egyptian region to

Iraq and Persia. Like Ḥarrān, the early workshops were predominantly located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. About a dozen Islamic astrolabes survive from this period; the earliest dated example is by Baṣṭūlus in A.D. 927/8. (The oldest in the Adler Planetarium's collection was made by Badr ibn 'Abdallāh in Baghdad in 1130/1 for the Saljuq Sulṭān, Muḡhīth al-Dīn Maḥmūd II.) Continuing eastward, the travels of Muslim scholars such as al-Bīrūnī may have brought the astrolabe to southern India in the eleventh century, although the earliest known Sanskrit text on the astrolabe dates from about 1370. It was completed by a Jain scholar under the sponsorship of the Tughluk Emperor, Fīrūz Shāh, who also promoted the fabrication of astrolabes in India. No Indian instruments survive from this period, however. In the mid-sixteenth century, the astrolabe was introduced to Mughal India from Persia, and Lahore became a center of the production of Indo-Persian astrolabes.



Muslim scholars also spread knowledge of the astrolabe to North Africa and Muslim Spain (Andalusia) by the tenth century, and from there to the Latin West as Christian and Jewish scholars traveled to Spain and returned with astrolabes and Arabic texts translated into Latin and Hebrew. Knowledge of the astrolabe may also have come directly to Europe from the Byzantine Empire and Greek sources. One Byzantine example dated 1026 survives and was clearly patterned after Islamic instruments.

The Adler Planetarium's collection of eastern astrolabes and related instruments is representative of this diverse history. Made in Spain and western North Africa, in West Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia, the instruments are engraved with inscriptions in Arabic, French, Hebrew, Latin, Persian, Sanskrit, and Turkish. Few scholars have the skills to analyze these instruments, and David Pingree was among them.

Pingree was renowned for his scholarship in the history of the exact sciences (notably astro-no-

my and mathematics), magic, and astrology in ancient Mesopotamia, classical Greece, Byzantium, India, Latin Europe, North Africa, the Islamic world, and the linguistic and intellectual cultures that linked them. Pingree had come to know the Adler Planetarium's collection of astrolabes in the mid-1960s when working as a research associate at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago on a project with E. S. Kennedy. Since this was twenty years before the catalogue project, the Websters and I welcomed Professor Pingree back to Chicago to re-examine the instruments. I well remember fetching the instruments for him and watching him pore closely over them with eyes weakened from diabetes. His intensity was as noteworthy as his generosity in sharing his knowledge with a young scholar like myself.

The catalogue that Pingree produced includes full descriptions of forty-nine eastern astrolabes. These are divided into those from eastern Islam (the Mashriq), those from western Islam (the Maghrib), and Sanskrit Indian astrolabes in order to accentuate their differences. Each instrument is photographed in its entirety—both assembled and dismantled—in order to show details of the principal parts. Inscribed words in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, or Sanskrit are transliterated in the entries. The catalogue entries, moreover, include tables of the stars named on the retes; cities and geographical parameters given on gazetteers; and the latitudes and longest daylights of the tympan.

In addition, the catalogue also documents twenty-seven other related Arabic, Islamic, or Sanskrit instruments in the Adler Planetarium collection. These include astrolabe and horary quadrants, *qibla* indicators, sundials, dialing instruments, levels, artillery levels, celestial globes (described by Emilie Savage-Smith), and magic bowls.

Pingree has written a terse historical introduction to the catalogue and a section devoted to biographies of the makers. Appendices include lists of Arabic and Sanskrit star names that appear on the instruments, which will enable scholars to see how naming conventions change over time and place.

It should be noted that *Eastern Astrolabes* is Volume Two in a series of Historic Scientific Instruments of the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, and intended as a companion to *Western Astrolabes*. Readers unfamiliar with planispheric astrolabes will wish to consult Volume One's technical introduction and historical essay on the astrolabe and its uses cross-culturally.

In Volume Two, Pingree presumes the reader is fully versed in astrolabe arcana, astronomy, astrology, and Muslim practices. This has been a book long in the making, but the outcome is a significant contribution to the field of Islamic scientific instruments and the history of astronomy. It is regrettable that David Pingree did not live to see the book in print, but he would be very pleased to see his "baby" recognized for the exceptional scholarship that it is.

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Ninth "Oxford" International Symposium on Archaeoastronomy

Steve McCluskey, West Virginia University

The "Oxford" symposia are the foremost international conferences in the interdisciplinary field of archaeoastronomy, attracting leading researchers in fields such as astronomy, anthropology, archaeology, history, museum studies, surveying, statistics, and the history of religions as well as the history of science and astronomy.

The ninth "Oxford" International Symposium on Archaeoastronomy will be held in Lima, Peru from 5 to 9 January 2011. The FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT and CALL FOR PAPERS can be found at <http://www.archaeoastronomy.org/>

Minutes of HAD Business Meeting 4 January 2010, Washington, DC

I. The meeting was called to order by chair Thomas Hockey.

The minutes of last year's meeting, available online as part of *HAD News* #74, were approved.

II. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Joe Tenn reminded those in attendance 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 the *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 2009 were announced. Final totals for

the year are posted elsewhere in this newsletter. HAD membership as of December 2009 totaled 313, including 41 Divisional Affiliate members, who are not members of the AAS.

III. Committee Reports and ongoing HAD Activities

A. Obituary Committee

Jarita Holbrook reported that the writing of obituaries for all AAS members who passed away during the year was proceeding as planned. Nine obituaries were submitted to the *BAAS* in 2009, but they were not published for reasons that were unclear. They will be published in the next year. She called for help in finding someone to write an obituary for one individual, and that was achieved during the meeting.

B. HAD Prize Committee

Sara Schechner reported that 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, Brenda Corbin, and Marc Rothenberg.

Those in attendance were reminded that the Doggett Prize is now for lifetime achievement in the history of astronomy and is considered HAD's highest honor. The HAD Book Prize (later renamed the Osterbrock Prize) is for a book in the history of astronomy. Rules for both prizes are now on the HAD website.

Members were asked to nominate books for the Book Prize by 1 March 2010.

D. The HAD Booth

Arnold Heiser, who volunteered to manage the HAD booth at the 2010 meeting, called for a few additional volunteers to staff it. It was noted 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 is not only providing it at no cost, but it is also encouraging other divisions to establish their own booths. A second division had a booth at this meeting. Some members called for more eye-catching decorations for the Booth, and the HAD Committee promised to look into this.

E. The Minibanquet

Joe Tenn reported that, after considerable legwork by local resident Brenda Corbin, the Cactus Cantina had been selected for the third annual HAD Minibanquet, to be held that evening. The Minibanquet is always much cheaper and more informal than the AAS Banquet. Attendance was a record 48.

F. Nominating Committee

Sara Schechner reported that the 2010 HAD Nominating Committee consisted of herself (Chair), Dan Green, and Alan Hirshfeld, and that they would be nominating candidates for the position of chair-elect and the two positions on the HAD Committee. The election is discussed in another article in this issue of *HAD News*.

IV. The next HAD Meeting

Thomas Hockey reported that HAD's next meeting would be with the AAS in Seattle, 9–11 January 2011. He called for volunteers to organize special sessions, and Woody Sullivan volunteered to organize one, the topic to be determined later.

V. Proposed Changes in Bylaws

Joe Tenn reported that the HAD Bylaws are somewhat out-of-date, based on the assumption that all decisions are made at in-person meetings and all communications by letter mail. Elections, for example, are required to start 12 months before the installation of new officers. He presented some proposed revisions and received several excellent suggestions from the floor regarding improvements.

VI. New Business & News from Members

There was some discussion of the continuing problem of what should be done with the *Astrophysical Journal* archives. HAD Chair Thomas Hockey agreed to inquire as to what was being done.

VII. Thanks and Adjournment

Chair Thomas Hockey concluded the meeting.

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Election

(cont. from p. 1)

For HAD Vice-Chair/Chair Elect:

Biography: **Jay Pasachoff** earned all his degrees at Harvard, and was a postdoc at Caltech, where he also spent last year's sabbatical. He has long been at Williams College, heading the oldest extant observatory in the United States, which helped fuel his interest in astronomical history. He is the chair of the Working Group on Solar Eclipses of the International Astronomical Union and recently finished a rotation as President of the IAU's Commission on Education and Development. He is a member of the [Johannes] Kepler Working Group set up at last summer's IAU General Assembly. He has long had an interest in original editions of major works in the history of astronomy. He is co-author, with an art historian, of a book on the history of comet images in art, and is author or co-author of papers on a variety of historical topics. His work on transits of Mercury and Venus has helped solve the long-standing problem of the source of the black-drop effect.



Statement: The HAD sessions are always a high point of AAS meetings for me, and maintaining a rotating set of single-topic symposia, as we had in January on the history of spectroscopy, would be a priority for me. Visits to sites of interest relevant to astronomical history in the vicinity of meeting locations, as we had to the U.S. Naval Observatory's library in January and as we had in the past to other rare-book collections, would also be something I would like to continue. Further, I would hope to work to help young scholars in the history of science, both in their scholarship and by involving them in our meetings and other activities. And I

would hope to continue to encourage the preservation of astronomical data and personal records, both in the US and abroad.

For HAD Committee Member (2 positions)

Biography: **Richard Jarrell** studied astrophysics and history and philosophy of science at Indiana University Bloomington (A.B., 1967) and history and philosophy of science and technology at the University of Toronto (Ph.D., 1972). He has taught at York University the past forty-one years and is currently Professor of Natural Science and of Science and Technology Studies. His earlier work centred on astronomy in the scientific revolution (Maestlin, calendar reform), then moved into Canadian astronomy; latest research focuses upon Canadian radio astronomy as an example of Big Science in a small country. He has participated in historical or heritage committees of the Canadian Astronomical Society, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.



Statement: The AAS has long been open to foreign participation and so has our Division and I would like to carry on that tradition through a personal contribution. HAD meetings are eclectic—mixing contributions of history-loving astronomers with professional historians—something to be preserved. The number of professional historians of astronomy is not large and I would encourage them to utilize HAD as a venue for more theme-oriented sessions. This would give the Division a higher profile and allow the professional and non-professional historians to network and share ideas, something that would benefit us all.

Biography: **Wayne “Ozzie” Osborn** earned his A.B. at the University of California at Berkeley and, after stops at Maryland and Wesleyan (M.A.), obtained his Ph.D. at Yale. All his degrees are in astronomy. He retired from Central Michigan University in 2007 after a 30-year career as a professor in the Physics Department with occasional stints as an administrator. He now splits his time between work to preserve and catalog astronomical photographic plates and other astronomical material and instruments of historical and scientific importance, continuing his research on the period changes of variable stars in globular clusters, and collaborating with SIMBAD and ADS to improve these databases. Osborn served two terms on the AAS Committee on Light Pollution, Radio Interference and Space Debris and is currently serving on the Society’s Working Group on the Preservation of Astronomical Heritage.



Statement: I would be pleased to serve on the HAD Committee if elected. The stories of past astronomers and their astronomical discoveries as well as the impressive instruments made to carry out their observations continue to inspire both students and the general public, showing the importance of astronomical history in a broad sense. The HAD charge includes promoting interest in topics related to the historical aspects of astronomy, assisting the Society in the commemoration of important historical anniversaries and in the archival preservation of current materials of importance to future historians. I would work to contribute to the HAD’s efforts in these areas.

Biography: **James “Jay” C. White II** grew up on a farm far from city lights and had interest in mathematics, music, art, and anything that explodes. Jay followed his passions and, in the years after he left the

farm, he obtained a bachelor’s degree in physics from Birmingham-Southern College and a master’s degree and doctorate in astronomy from Indiana University Bloomington. His primary research interest is in interacting binary star systems (e.g., cataclysmic variables), although Jay has been involved in astronomy and science in various ways—as the former, long-time editor of *Mercury* magazine and a former executive director of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, as the former Chair of the IAU Program Group Teaching Astronomy for Development (TAD), as the former Chair of the AAS Working Group on Professional-Amateur Collaboration, and, in the 1980s, as a physicist at Hughes Aircraft Company. He is currently the interim provost at Gettysburg College, and this summer Jay moves to the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Faculty, and Professor of Physics at Washington & Jefferson College. While he still is moved by mathematics, music, art, and anything that explodes [in outer space], he now misses life on the farm.



Statement: Never has the responsibility of the Historical Astronomy Division been greater. The accelerating pace of astronomical discovery, along with that of technological innovation, demands that our astronomical community pay careful and deliberate attention to how we capture, memorialize, and honor each era’s individuals and their ideas and discoveries. The Division exists to do those things, and I am delighted to consider how I might contribute to its marvelous efforts. Of particular interest to me is how HAD can connect young astronomers to the field’s rich history and how HAD can encourage, if not sponsor, communication with similar historical bodies in other scientific fields.



Next Year in Seattle

The next HAD meeting will be part of the 217th meeting of the AAS in Seattle. HAD sessions will be held on 9–11 January 2011, and will include two special sessions.

Woody Sullivan of the University of Washington is organizing one on the astronomical contributions of the Herschel family, and Craig Waff and Bill Sheehan are planning the other on the discovery of Neptune. Next year marks one “Neptunian year” since the planet’s discovery as the result of calculations by Urbain J.J. LeVerrier, pictured above.

Osterbrock Book Prize

(cont. from p. 1)

Those who contributed by April 1 include Anonymous, John W. Briggs, Brenda and Tom Corbin, Stephane Courteau, Sandra M. Faber, Gordon MacAlpine, Jay and Naomi Pasachoff, Mark M. Phillips, Richard Pogge, Lloyd and Susie Robinson, Joseph S. Tenn, Sylvain Veilleux, Robert Williams, and Thomas Williams. Now HAD is asking the wider community of those who knew or admired Don Osterbrock to contribute. The HAD Committee hopes to raise sufficient funds to make the prize self-sustaining.

To contribute you may

(1) log in at <https://members.aas.org/source/security/AccountLoginAndSearch.cfm?section=home>. Then click on "Donate Now" in the column on the left. Go down the page to Historical Astronomy Division and fill in the amount and, when asked, your credit card number

or

(2) call +1- 202-328-2010 x103 or x105 with your

credit card. Indicate that you are making a donation to the HAD Osterbrock Fund #2942

or

(3) send a check made out to American Astronomical Society to

American Astronomical Society
2000 Florida Ave., NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20009-1231, USA

and indicate that it is a donation to the HAD Osterbrock Fund #2942.

joe.tenn@sonoma.edu

Treasurer’s Report

HAD Account

Balance 12/31/08 **\$17,833.99**

Revenue 2009

Individual Dues	2,004.00
Contributions	522.00
Interest	622.12
Distr. Market Value	+2,367.88
TOTAL REVENUE	5,516.00

Expenses 2009

Speakers	2663.70
Travel	463.08
Newsletter	354.49
Cult Astr Summer Schl	4763.27
Service Charges	50.350
Inter-unit Services	<u>195.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,489.89

Net Change 2008 **-\$2,973.89**

Balance 12/31/08 **\$14,860.10**

Doggett Prize Fund

Balance 12/31/08 **\$26,433.39**

Revenue 2009

Contributions	555.00
Interest	846.15
Distr. Market Value	<u>+3113.99</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	4515.14

Expenses 2009

Certificate	<u>350.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	350.00

Net Change 2009 **+4165.14**

Balance 12/31/09 **\$30,598.53**

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Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society

HAD News #76, April 2010, 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
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