

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION

The Historical Astronomy Division held its third regular meeting on January 10-11, 1983, in Boston in conjunction with the 161st meeting of the AAS. Twenty-five papers were presented in three half-day sessions; these represented the three major interests of the Division: archaeoastronomy, general history, and applied history. Invited papers were given by A.L. and R.A. Preston, A. Aaboe, J. Lankford, and D. Osterbrock. Members were invited to a reception in the Houghton Library at Harvard University to see an exhibition of rare books, "Shoulders of Giants: from Kepler and Galileo to Newton." Also, the HAD and the Boston University Astronomy Department co-hosted a reception for the entire society at Boston University.

Officers elected at that time include E.C. Krupp, Vice Chairman, and B.G. Marsden and S.R. Weart, Committee Members; Kenneth Brecher continues as Secretary-Treasurer.

The HAD Preservation Committee, chaired by D. DeVorkin, is sending a letter to possible participants in the Observatory Publications Microfilming

Project; this is based on the response from an earlier questionnaire, and is going to those who indicated a willingness to help and to seek funding for the preservation of deteriorating observatory publications. A poster session at the Las Vegas meeting will highlight the urgency of preserving these valuable and presently self-destructing astronomical documents.

The Division has accepted an invitation to begin its next regular meeting at the National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C., on Saturday, June 9, 1984. This session will concentrate on the history of American astronomy; the HAD meeting will continue on the following Monday in Baltimore at the 164th meeting of the AAS.

As of November, 1983, the Division continues to have about 280 members.

Owen Gingerich
Chairman

DIVISION FOR PLANETARY SCIENCES

Planetary science, which has always been spurred by NASA's flights to the planets, saw several encouraging signs of a renaissance in the discipline's funding during the past twelve months. First, NASA's planetary research and analysis budget has grown in real dollars for the first time in many years. Fortunately, staunch allies in Congress overturned the original decrease proposed by the Executive Branch. The efforts of the AAU's Space Science Working Group, chaired by J. Simpson (Chicago) and guided by G. Shannon (AAU), were instrumental in accomplishing this. The DPS Executive Committee, led by C.R. Chapman (PSI), was active in analyzing the budget and proposing a solution. Second, the new budget included support for the first new start--the Venus Radar Mapper (VRM)--in seven years. Lastly, at the urging of NASA Headquarters, a strategy of exploration for the next decade has been devised. The Solar System Exploration Committee report (N. Hinners, D. Morrison) has been generally accepted by the planetary community and was formally endorsed by the DPS Committee on October 20, 1983. The recommended Core program includes VRM, a Mars Geochemistry/Climatology Orbiter, a multiple asteroid flyby/comet rendezvous mission and a Titan probe/radar mapper. It is the hope of the community that these modest missions, which are pointed toward specific scientific questions, will be augmented by major ventures; candidate missions are currently under study.

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Division was held in Ithaca, New York on October 16-20, 1983 with more than 300 scientists attending. Two special sessions on extrasolar planetary systems and the recent Earth-approaching asteroids (IRAS-Alcock and Sugano-Saigusa-Fujikawa) were highlights. A widely-attended session, open to the public, concerned the possible conflict between Space Station and planetary science. S.J. Ostro (Cornell) put together the program, while J.A. Burns (Cornell) served as Local Arrangements Chairman. Some 225 contributed papers, 22 invited papers, 22 title only papers, 16 posters, and 6 exhibits formed the program. L.L. Wilkening (Arizona) has been elected Vice-Chairman, while Robert A. Brown (Space Telescope Institute) and Larry Esposito (Colorado) were chosen for the DPS Committee. The new member of the Nominating Committee is A.T. Tokunaga.

Two bylaw changes were approved by the membership. The Press Officer will become a member of the DPS Committee for three years following appointment by that group. Voting in the annual elections will now close five weeks before the annual meeting.

The next annual meeting is scheduled for the week of October 9-12, 1984, in Kona, Hawaii. T.B. McCord (Hawaii) is in charge of the Program Committee while D. Morrison (Hawaii) will oversee local arrangements. It is likely that temporally adjacent meetings on the Moon's origin and comets will be held in Hawaii. The 1985 meeting (21-25 October) will be sponsored by the Space Telescope Institute. Discussions are taking place on the feasibility of holding the 1986 meeting in Europe to abut with the IAU colloquium on Comet Halley to be held during late October in Heidelberg.

The Division has instituted two prizes--The Gerard P. Kuiper Prize and the Harold C. Urey Prize. The former will recognize and honor outstanding contributors of any age or nationality, while the latter will identify and encourage superlative achievement in planetary research by a young scientist who is a North American resident. Under rules devised by a committee (D. Morrison, chair), the recipients of both prizes will be chosen by the DPS Committee from a list submitted by a Prize Subcommittee. Presently the Prize Subcommittee is being selected by the DPS Chairman, and cash awards plus certificates are expected to be presented at next year's annual meeting. Winners will be encouraged to lecture at the DPS meeting, and to give a general presentation to a broader audience, as well as to publish the technical lecture in *Icarus*.

Icarus, the professional journal affiliated with the Division, seems to be flourishing. J. Veeverka (Cornell) was Acting Editor from August 15, 1982 until May 30, 1983; J.A. Burns (Cornell) has now reassumed the Editor's position. Special Issues on both Venus and Saturn (two each) were published over the past year. In addition, a comprehensive subject index (55, No. 3, part 2) covering the first fifty-one volumes of the journal appeared. Substantially reduced subscription rates to the journal are available to DPS members. D.J. Stevenson (Caltech) has been selected to the