

E. Historical Astronomy Division

E.C. Krupp, Chair

Continued high interest in the meetings of the Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) prompted the addition of an all-day independent session on Saturday, 9 June 1984, in Washington, DC, just prior to the regular sessions scheduled for the 164th meeting of the American Astronomical Society held in Baltimore (11–13 June 1984). Thirty-four papers on the history of astronomy, space science, and archaeoastronomy were presented. The U.S. Naval Observatory hosted a tour of its facilities for Division members who attended the advance sessions. A special joint workshop, "A User's Guide to Astronomical Calculations for Historical Interests," was arranged for the same AAS meeting by the Historical Astronomy Division and the Division on Dynamical Astronomy. The present HAD vice-chairman, Donald E. Osterbrock, presented an invited address to the full Society in Baltimore, "Adonais—the life of James Edward Keeler and the Early Development of American Astrophysics."

In 1985, the Historical Astronomy Division held its fifth annual meeting in conjunction with the 165th meeting of the AAS at Tucson in January. Attendance at the historical sessions was high and averaged 90 throughout the three sessions in which 24 papers were presented. Historical topics ranged from the very recent (Kitt Peak National Observatory) to the very ancient (classical Greece), with the astronomical content of Van Gogh's night skies (Al Boime, UCLA, Art History) occupying some kind of middle ground in the chronological spectrum. Archaeoastronomical papers dealt with Old Kingdom Egypt, the Classic Maya, and various North American sites.

E. C. Krupp, the present HAD chairman, led a HAD sponsored and organized tour to the Hohokam Casa Grande ruins and other sites of interest in the vicinity of Tucson. Through the cooperation of the National Park Service staff at Casa Grande National Monument, more than 100 persons were allowed to examine the interior of the main structure at Casa Grande. Normally visitors are not permitted inside, but this opportunity allowed first-hand evaluation of the alleged astronomical sighting ports by tour participants.

The Division Business Meeting was held at noon, on Monday, 14 January 1985. Retiring Division Chairman Owen Gingerich presided. Time and place for the next meeting were discussed, and the new officers and councilors were announced as follows: E.C. Krupp, Chairman; Donald E. Osterbrock, Vice Chairman; David H. DeVorkin, Secretary/Treasurer; Katherine Bracher, Von Del Chamberlain, and Owen Gingerich, Councilors.

The present membership of HAD now numbers about 300.

IX. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

A. Committee on Public Policy/AAS Liaison Activities

Liaison activity with Congress and the Federal agencies has picked up in the last year as the proposed start of the VLBA has attracted much attention on the Hill. In the past, the NSF astronomy budget has seemed to be quite removed from political pressure, so we have concentrated most of our efforts on the NASA budget where Congress has traditionally been supportive of the Research and Analysis budgets and has been active in affecting the timetable for starting new missions.

Last year, the proposed start of the VLBA construction thrust the NSF astronomy budget into the same limelight. By working with the Authorization Committees and encouraging the Senate Appropriations Committee we have reached the stage where the first year of funding for the VLBA construction has been obligated. The situation was complicated by an announcement

that NOAO desired to phase out the Sacramento Peak Observatory in New Mexico, the same state from which the strongest supporters of the VLBA come. The depth of interest this has generated can be gauged by the presence of two Congressional Staff Members at the recent meeting of the NSF Advisory Committee for Astronomy. The situation has been calmed somewhat by the appointment of a subcommittee to assess the importance of Sacramento Peak Observatory to the field of solar physics. This will continue to be a touchy item, but at least the VLBA is under way.

The AAS Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy has languished somewhat through the failure to find a willing chairman for 1984–85. Late in the year Art Davidsen reluctantly agreed to serve a second term, but has been too busy to spend much time on committee activities. In the meantime, the Committee work has been done by Maarten Schmidt, George Field, and Peter Boyce with technical assistance from Paul Vandenberg. The success of this mode of operation is due to timely and effective efforts by the Committee, coordinated with efforts by NSF itself. The new chairman for the Committee in 1986 is Robert D. Gehrz.

The public policy aspects of astronomy have been highlighted at summer meetings by holding discussions of selected issues.

Activities relating to other societies include the publishing of a chapter on the federal budget for astronomy in the annual analysis of R&D in the federal budget prepared by the AAAS. Peter Boyce also chaired the session on the NSF budget at the AAAS annual Colloquium on R&D Policy.

B. Committee on Light Pollution and Radio Interference

David Crawford, Chair

The Committee has been very active in the past two years. Among the results which have been encouraged by our efforts are:

(1) Successful conclusion of agreements with the City and County of San Diego to use low pressure sodium lamps for their street lighting. In this campaign, public attention was focused on the importance of the dark night sky for the major California observatories and the cost savings which can be realized by the use of the more efficient low pressure sodium luminaries.

(2) Adoption of outdoor lighting control ordinances by more than 30 counties and incorporated cities within Arizona.

(3) Organization of a meeting in March 1984, sponsored jointly by the Arizona Section of the Illuminating Engineering Society, Arizona State University and the AAS on the subject of "Astronomy and Communities: the Impact of Lighting Practices." The very successful conference included the discussion of a survey of current lighting practices in the southwest, and a presentation of the effects of the growth of outdoor lighting upon astronomy.

(4) Publication of an editorial by Maarten Schmidt in *Physics Today* describing astronomy's problems with light pollution.

(5) Forging of closer ties with the outdoor lighting industry as exemplified by the acceptance of North American Philips Lighting as a Corporate Member of the AAS. They manufacture low pressure sodium lamps, and displayed some of the lamps for inspection at the Tucson meeting. The AAS has also become a corporate member of the CIE, the lighting industry's equivalent of the IAU.

In addition to the above activities, members of the Committee have made presentations to a wide variety of audiences to alert them to the needs of astronomy and to the fact that there are options which satisfy the needs of the community and are relatively inoffensive to astronomers. The audiences of citizens