

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION NEWSLETTER 9 September 1988

HAD MEETING IN BOSTON, JANUARY 1989 - *Don Osterbrock*

The History of Astronomy Division will meet in conjunction with the parent American Astronomical Society in the Boston area in January, 1989. The meeting will mark both the 150th anniversary of the Harvard College Observatory and the centennial of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. On Saturday, January 7, at the invitation of the Center for Astrophysics and its Director, Irwin Shapiro, we will meet at the Phillips Auditorium of the HCO for a full day of invited papers on the theme "Astronomy at Cambridge." An excellent historical program has been arranged by Barbara Welther, Owen Gingerich, and Marc Rothenberg. There will be four short sessions, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, each with a chair, three of four speakers, and a commentator. A group dinner in a Cambridge restaurant will close the day.

On Sunday, January 8 there are to be historical exhibits and receptions at the Pusey Library on the Harvard campus and at the Historical Instruments Collection in the Science Center. On Monday, January 9 there will be two joint HAD-AAS sessions for contributed historical papers at the hotel in Boston where the Society will be meeting. We will have the annual HAD business meeting at 1PM of that same day, in the same room where the history sessions will be held. Either on Monday January 9 or Tuesday January 10 Barbara Welther will give an invited historical lecture to the entire Society on the history of the HCO and SAO.

We hope that many HAD members, and others interested in the history of astronomy will attend these meetings. If you are planning to present a contributed historical paper, please be sure to submit your abstract by the deadline (which will be in the preliminary announcement of the AAS meeting) and to send a copy of it to HAD secretary DeVorkin.

The complete list of invited speakers on Saturday, as well as all relevant information on the meeting and the Saturday dinner, will be sent out in a later newsletter that also lists the contributed Monday papers.

Note relevant dates: the AAS Preliminary announcement should be mailed by the second week of September. If you have not received your copy by the fourth week, contact the AAS office. AAS abstract deadline: October 21. Late paper deadline: December 21.

REGISTRATION FEE AT AAS MEETINGS - *Don Osterbrock*

Following discussion at our annual business meeting in Austin, January 10, 1988, the HAD Executive Committee at its meeting that evening unanimously decided to request the AAS to consider reducing the registration fee for our HAD affiliate members at AAS meetings. These affiliates attend only the historical sessions and thus are present for only part of the AAS meeting. Most of them pay their expenses at the meeting out of their own pockets, and reducing the registration fee would make it considerably easier for them to attend. We therefore proposed that for HAD affiliates, the registration be reduced from \$105 (the current fee for non-AAS members) to \$50. Our secretary/treasurer David DeVorkin sent our request to the AAS in the form of a letter to its secretary Arlo Landolt.

It was discussed by the AAS Council at its meeting in Lawrence, Kansas June 4-5. As both president-elect of the AAS and chair of the HAD I did not feel I should argue

for or against this request, but I answered all questions of fact or information that came up. The AAS Executive Office staff who are responsible for arranging the meetings spoke in opposition to granting any reduction. They stated that many of the expenses of a meeting are not proportional to the length of time a person is present, but rather are fixed costs dependent on the maximum number of people who are ever present. Also they felt that a reduction for one Division's members would immediately lead to requests for similar reductions from the other Divisions. Finally, they argued that the additional complications of a different registration fee for one more group of attendees, and making sure that they did not attend sessions they should not, would be costly in time and effort.

However, they stated that HAD affiliate members, and affiliate members of other Divisions, should NOT have to pay non-AAS members' registration fees; according to these staff people the Society policy is that Divisional affiliate members should pay the same regulation fee as AAS members. If HAD members were required to pay more in the past (we know they were, at least on some occasions), it was a mistake for which they apologize.

The Council decided not to change the registration fee for HAD affiliate members; that is, our request was rejected. However, as a result of this discussion, the affiliates who attend AAS meetings will pay a registration fee of \$85, as the AAS members do, not \$105, as non-members do.

PRELIMINARY SLATE FOR NEW OFFICERS - *HAD Nominating Subcommittee*

The HAD Nominating Subcommittee (Ed Krupp, Chairman, Kevin Krisciunas, Brenda Corbin) slate for the 1989/1990 election is as follows:

Vice Chairman: John Lankford, U. Missouri; Robert Smith, Johns Hopkins/Smithsonian.
Committee: Ruth Freitag, Library of Congress; Woodruff Sullivan, U. Washington; James Sweitzer, Adler; Donald Yeomans, JPL.

The HAD By-Laws require the announcement of the slate 3 months prior to the next HAD Business meeting. Under the By-Laws, HAD members may also submit additional names for either of the offices. To do so requires that the name of each candidate be endorsed by at least 25 members of the HAD (10% of the active membership, according to the By-Laws). These names are due to the secretary/treasurer no later than 30 days from the announcement of the ballot, or approximately October 7. A final ballot will then be prepared and sent to all HAD members. A plurality of votes will be sufficient for election, except in the case of Committee members, where the top two will be elected.

The HAD By-Laws further stipulate (Article III.2) that "The Committee [of the Division] shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer whenever such a post falls vacant." The four-year term of the present secretary-treasurer expires at the end of the January HAD meetings. Therefore the Committee (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Past Chairman, Committee members) will make this appointment in January.

ARE YOU PAID UP?

A good number of HAD members are slipping behind. Thus far, I have ignored little slips, but if your membership was up by mid-1988, please take the time to send in your renewal. Remember: HAD regular members: \$6.00/3 years; affiliates: \$15.00/3 years. Have a look at your HAD mailing label: that date is the date your membership lapses.

NAS/NRC TRAVEL GRANTS TO THE 18TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORY OF SCIENCE:

The History of Science Society is distributing application forms and information for travel grants to attend the 18th International Congress of History of Science, to be held 1 - 9 August, 1989 in Hamburg and Munich. The amount of support available for travel grants is contingent upon the amount of funds the History of Science Society and the Society for History of Technology actually raise this fall. For more information, contact Michael M. Sokal, HSS Executive Secretary, Department of Humanities, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609.

ASTRONOMICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY -- *Ruth Freitag*

Following is a compilation of monographs recently published. The list is too long to incorporate both monographs and journal articles, so we will publish the journal article listing in the next newsletter. Bibliographies are posted at <http://www.aas.org/had/bibliographies/>