

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION
NEWSLETTER 10
November 1988

(1) THE ANNUAL HAD MEETING IN BOSTON:

As all HAD members know well, from the descriptions given in the past two HAD newsletters, the Annual HAD meeting in Boston is going to be a very active and exciting three day event. Starting on Saturday with the Joint Symposium, Sunday with tours of museums and the observatory and ending on Monday with the contributed paper sessions and business meeting, the agenda is full. In fact, it is overstaffed. So many contributed papers arrived that we had to open a poster session. As always, papers were placed in sessions on a "first-come-first-served" basis. Nevertheless, the two contributed paper sessions form reasonably coherent programs, and the poster session promises much useful information and discussion.

* Saturday and Sunday: Joint HAD and CfA Symposium on the History of Astronomy, To Celebrate HCO Sesquicentennial and SAO Centennial: Please refer to the printed section, (at the end of the Newsletter) and be mindful of the sign-up sheet provided for the session on Saturday, January 7, and the tours on Sunday, January 8. The four paper sessions on Saturday comprise HAD sessions I, II, III, and IV.

* Monday: HAD Session V: Modern Astronomy
(Provincetown) 10:00 am - 11:30 am. Chair: D. DeVorkin
Invited:
S. Chapin, "Welcoming the bicentennial of the French Revolution with a look at a decade of change at the Paris Observatory."
Contributed:
K. Bracher, "The 1889 Solar Eclipse and the Founding of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific."
D. Osterbrock, "Don Menzel at Lick: A Young Theoretical Astrophysicist at an Old Observational Observatory."
R. Smith, "A Technology Pushed to its Limits: Reflectors in the mid-19th Century."
V. Rubin, "Women Astronomers in the USSR."
R. McCutcheon, "The 1936-37 Purge of Soviet Astronomers: An Emerging Soviet Perspective."

* Monday: HAD Annual Business Meeting
(Provincetown) 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. Don Osterbrock, presiding.
Business includes installation of new officers.

* Monday: HAD Session VI: Ancient and Archastronomy
(Provincetown) 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm. Chair: K. Bracher
Contributed:
W. Liller, "The Orientations of the Fantastic Statues and Ceremonial Platforms of Easter Island."

H. Reiche, "Fall-Safe Dating by Stellar Phases."
A. Sofaer, R. Sinclair, and E. Brechner, "Solar Significance of a Double Spiral Petroglyph in Chaco Canyon, New Mexico."
J. Pasachoff and R. Olson, "Historical Comets of the 'Nuremberg Chronicle.'"
I. Ahmad, "Muhammad's Observation of the 632 Solar Eclipse."
L. Doggett and B. Schaefer, "Moonwatch 88: An Observational Study of Lunar Calendars."

* Monday: All Day HAD Poster Session:
(Exhibit Hall)
T. Hockey, "The First Publication of the Physical Appearance of Jupiter as Seen from the United States."
S. McCluskey, "Traces of Megalithic Solar Astronomy in the Calendar of Coligny, 2nd Century AD."
J. Malville, C. Ambruster, and J. Jacobs, "The Sun and Moon Over Chimney Rock."
B. Schaefer, "A Fundamental Limit on the Accuracy of Any Alignment."
J. Robinson, "A Credible Pair of "Moonswing" Alignments at Stonehenge."

* Tuesday 8:30 am, AAS Invited Lecture:
Barbara L. Welther (CfA): "Lighthouses of the Skies: The Harvard and Smithsonian Anniversaries."

(2) Election of New Officers

Below are listed the candidates' biographical statements. Please fill in the ballot at the end of the Newsletter, and return to D. H. DeVorkin, Rm 3558, National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC 20560, by December 1.

The Office of Vice-Chairman (vote for one):

JOHN LANKFORD: Professor of the social history of modern science at the University of Missouri-Columbia, has been an active HAD member since its founding. Served on the nominating Committee, presented two invited papers, and contributed others, and one invited AAS lecture (Kansas, June 1988). Presently researching a collective biography of the American astronomical community, 1859-1940, supported by NSF, Dudley Observatory and Weldon Springs Foundation grants. Has published in Isis, Technology and Culture, Sky & Telescope, and the BAAS. Contributed a chapter to volume 4a of the General History of Astronomy. Believes that the HAD should expand dialogue between historians of science and historian-scientists, as well as place the history of astronomy within the larger context of the history of science, and, where appropriate, the history of culture and politics.

ROBERT SMITH: Historian at the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, and Associate professor (part time) in the Department of the History of Science at The Johns

Hopkins University. Trained in the history of astronomy at the University of Cambridge and is author of The Expanding Universe: Astronomy's 'Great Debate' 1900 - 1931 (1982), which is currently being translated into Spanish. Has authored Shaping the Space Telescope: The Interpenetration of Science, Technology, and Politics (in press, 1989 publication). Member of the HAD since 1983. Chief research interests focus on the interactions between science and technology in nineteenth and early twentieth century astronomy. Currently working on studies of V. M. Slipher, and the early history of ultraviolet space astronomy. Wishes to encourage more thematic sessions at HAD meetings so that a single topic can be examined at length.

Committee Members (vote for two)

RUTH FREITAG: Native of Lancaster, PA, took an AB in history at Penn State. Served in the Army and Foreign Service and earned MS in library science at USC. Appointed to the recruit training program of the Library of Congress in 1959, and has been happily employed there ever since, chiefly dealing with reference correspondence and compiling bibliographies in astronomy. Presently a senior science specialist in LC's Science and Technology Division. Her most recent bibliography, issued by LC, is an extensive study of the literature on Halley's Comet. Member of the National Capital Astronomers, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and long time member of the HAD. Is in favor of continuing to hold HAD meeting with the AAS to stimulate contact between astronomers and historians, and also supports the exchange of newsletter with other societies, and inviting prominent scholars from other disciplines to lend perspective to issues in the history of astronomy.

WOODRUFF T. SULLIVAN: Holds a B.S in physics from MIT and PhD in astronomy from the U. Maryland (1971). After a postdoc in Holland, moved to the University of Washington. Scientific research centers on galaxies and SETI. Historical interests center on twentieth-century astronomy, specifically a long-term study of the world-wide development of radio astronomy, to 1965. As part of this effort, had compiled Classics in Radio Astronomy (1982) and edited The Early Years of Radio Astronomy (1984), along with several articles, including "Martin Ryle and radio stars: the entry of radio astronomy into cosmology." Has now almost completed a monograph treating the development of radio astronomy to 1953. Has served on the Board of the West Coast History of Science Society and am currently Chairman of the History Committee of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Has been a HAD member since its beginning and strongly supports its agenda of making "historical astronomy" (including the use of historical data to shed light on modern scientific studies) a vital part of the AAS.

JAMES S. SWEITZER: Received PhD from the University of Chicago for research on interstellar ammonia. Now assistant director of the Adler Planetarium, where he manages the astronomical programs, including one of the largest and most important astronomical instrument collections in the world. His research interests are in the history of twentieth-century astronomy, and he has contributed to innovative techniques in the public understanding of astronomy.

DONALD G. YEOMANS: As an astronomer at JPL, has been researching the dynamics of comets and asteroids, providing position predictions for ground-based and space-based observations. Historical research interests include applied historical astronomy and, with Ruth Freitag, writing a book on the history of comets. As a member of IAU Commission 41, the DPS, DDA, and the history committee of the ASP, would like to help in efforts to make the HAD Newsletters a vehicle for reporting upon activities within these groups that are of interest to HAD members.

(3) ARE YOU PAID UP?

take two: 33 members have paid since the last newsletter. There are still many who are rapidly becoming noticeably overdue. As I noted last month, 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, even though an N appears there (status: paid up). Once I change that dues status code to a Y (dues "irregularity") that HAD member will be in limbo and no longer receive the newsletter.

(4) THE CENTENNIAL MEETING OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC

Invited and contributed papers on many aspects of the history of astronomy, including the history of the ASP itself, during the last 100 years will be one of the highlights during the Centennial Meeting of the ASP, to be held June 21 - 25, 1989 at the University of California, Berkeley. There will be both invited and contributed papers, poster sessions, exhibits of instruments and books, and tours during the meetings. The history sessions are being organized by the ASP History Committee, chaired by Woodruff Sullivan (U. Washington). For more information on the meeting and registration, write to: Berkeley Meeting Information, A.S.P., 390 Ashton Ave., San Francisco, CA 94112.

Historical Astronomy Division Symposium

Saturday-Sunday, January 7-8

As part of the January HAD meeting, there will be a special two-day HAD/CFA celebration of the sesquicentennial of Harvard College Observatory and the centennial of Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. On Saturday, January 7, invited speakers will present papers on the history of HCO and SAO followed by commentary and discussion. The all-day symposium will take place in Phillips Auditorium at HCO in Cambridge, 9:00-6:00, with registration preceding it 8:15-9:00. During the luncheon break attendees may tour the Great Refractor and the historic plate stacks. And Saturday evening after the symposium, they may continue celebrating at a cash bar reception and dutch treat dinner at Copley Place.

On Sunday morning, January 8, there will be an optional tour, 9:00-1:00, of Oak Ridge Observatory in the nearby town of Harvard. During Sunday afternoon there will be special exhibits and receptions at the Archives and Instruments Collection in Harvard Yard, 2:00-5:00.

On both Saturday and Sunday charter busses will pick up attendees at Copley Place in the morning and return them there after the day's events. So for Friday and Saturday nights attendees are encouraged to stay in one of the Copley Place hotels in Boston - either the Marriott (1-800-228-9290) or the Westin Hotel (1-800-228-3000) - or the Sheraton Commander (1-800-325-3535) on Garden Street near HCO in Cambridge.

The cost of the Saturday symposium is \$20/person, which covers luncheon, coffee breaks, and souvenir registration packet. That morning the charter bus will leave Copley Place for HCO at 8:00am SHARP. After the symposium the bus will return to Copley Place where there will be a cash bar reception and dutch treat dinner. The cost of the round trip between the hotels and the observatories in Cambridge is \$5/person.

The cost of the optional tour to Oak Ridge Observatory on Sunday is \$7.50/person. That morning the charter bus will leave Copley Place at 9:00am. On the trip back from Oak Ridge, the bus will stop at both Harvard Yard and Copley Place.

Please preregister for the symposium by DECEMBER 1. Send a check payable to HARVARD UNIVERSITY to Mrs. Joan Jordan, Center for Astrophysics (MS-9), 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

AAS members who will not attend the symposium but who will arrive early on Sunday are welcome to join the HAD members at the exhibitions in Harvard Yard. There will be no charge for the receptions at the Archives and at the Historical Instruments Collection on Sunday afternoon in Harvard Yard. However, the receptions are by invitation only. Those attending the symposium on Saturday will automatically receive one. Others may obtain an invitation by sending a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to Mrs. Joan Jordan at the above address.

Alternative transportation from Copley Place to Harvard Yard and the observatories is by taxicab or subway. By subway the best route to Harvard Square is to take the Green Line from Copley Station to Park Street, and the Red Line from Park Street to Harvard Square. On Sunday just cross the street to enter Harvard Yard. On Saturday there is limited bus service from the subway station along Concord Avenue to the observatories: Huron Avenue (#72), Belmont Center (#74), and Park Circle (#78). Disembark between Bond and Madison Streets, across from St. Peter's Church.

Joint HAD and CFA Symposium on the History of Astronomy To Celebrate HCO Sesquicentennial and SAO Centennial

Saturday, 7 January 1989 in Phillips Auditorium
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, MA

"Astronomy at Cambridge"

- 8:15 - 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 - 9:15 CFA Welcome and HAD Opening Remarks
Irwin Shapiro, Director, CFA
Katherine Bracher, Vice President, HAD
- 9:15 11:15 HCO: The Early Years
Chair: Charles Whitney, CFA
Blazing Stars, Open Minds, and Loosened Purse Strings:
Astronomical Research and Its Early Cambridge Audience
Sara Schechner Genuth, Adler Planetarium
Astronomy as Public Utility: The Influence
of G. B. Airy on Harvard College Observatory.
Carlene Stephens, Smithsonian Institution
Patterns of Patronage at HCO.
Marc Rothenberg, Smithsonian Institution
Commentary and Discussion.
Clark Elliott, Harvard University
- Coffee Break
- 11:15 - 12:50 HCO: The Pickering Years
Chair: John Lankford, University of Missouri
Edward Charles Pickering.
Howard Plotkin, University of Western Ontario
William Henry Pickering.
Phil Sadler, CFA
Strategies and Compromises: Women in Astronomy
at Harvard College Observatory, 1870-1920.
Pamela Mack, Clemson University
Commentary and Discussion.
John Lankford, University of Missouri

Joint HAD and CFA Symposium on the History of Astronomy
To Celebrate HCO Sesquicentennial and SAO Centennial

Saturday, 7 January 1989
Center for Astrophysics

"Astronomy at Cambridge"
(continued)

- 12:50 - 2:00 Luncheon Break**
Tours of the Great Refractor and Plate Stacks.
- 2:00 - 4:00 HCO: The Shapley Years**
Chair: Richard Berendzen, American University
Through Rugged Ways to the Galaxies.
Owen Gingerich, CFA
Enterprises at HCO: AAVSO and *S&T*.
Leif Robinson, *Sky & Telescope*
Women and War Work.
Peggy Kidwell, Smithsonian Institution
Commentary and Discussion.
Richard Berendzen, American University
- Coffee Break**
- 4:00 - 6:00 SAO: From Washington to Cambridge**
Chair: George Field, CFA
The Langley Years.
John Eddy, University Corporation
for Atmospheric Research
The Abbott Years.
David DeVorkin, Smithsonian Institution
SAO on the Move.
Ron Doel, Smithsonian Institution
Commentary and Discussion.
A. Hunter Dupree, Cambridge
- Concluding Historical Remarks.**
Owen Gingerich, CFA
- 6:00 Busses to Copley Place Hotels**
Cash Bar Reception - Dutch Treat Dinner

Joint HAD and CFA Symposium on the History of Astronomy
To Celebrate HCO Sesquicentennial and SAO Centennial

Sunday, 8 January 1989
Events in Harvard Yard and in Harvard, MA

- Tour of Oak Ridge Observatory**
9:00 - 10:00 Bus Trip to Harvard, MA
10:00 - 12:00 Tours of 61" Wyeth Reflector
24" Jewett Schmidt
Radio Telescope and Grounds
Refreshments.
- 12:00 - 1:00** Bus Trip back to Cambridge, MA
- Special Exhibits and Receptions for HAD**
2:00 - 4:00 Exhibit and Reception at Pusey Library
Astronomy at Harvard: From Colonial Times
To the Space Age.
Letters, daguerreotypes, astronomical photographs, . . . ,
Prepared by Clark Elliott, Curator, Archives
- 3:00 - 5:00** Exhibit and Reception at Science Center
The Most Reliable Time: Clockmaking and Astronomy
In 19th Century New England.
Scientific instruments of William Cranch Bond.
Prepared by Will Andrewes, Curator,
Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments
- Browsing in and around Harvard Yard**
12:00 - 4:45 Widener Library, Harvard Yard
1:00 - 5:00 Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy Street
1:00 - 5:00 Sackler Art Museum, 485 Broadway Street
1:00 - 5:00 Semitic Museum, 6 Divinity Avenue
1:00 - 4:30 Harvard University Museums of Natural History
Entrances at 24 Oxford St. and 11 Divinity Ave.
Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
The Mineralogical and Geological Museums
The Museum of Comparative Zoology
The Botanical Museum (Glass Flowers)
- 7:00 - 10:00 AAS Opening Reception**
Boston Marriott, Copley Place

BALLOT

The Office of Vice-Chairman (vote for one):

JOHN LANKFORD: _____

ROBERT SMITH: _____

Committee Members (vote for two):

RUTH FREITAG: ----

WOODRUFF T. SULLIVAN: ----

JAMES S. SWEITZER: ----

DONALD G. YEOMANS: ----

return this ballot to D. H. DeVorkin, Rm 3558, National Air and
Space Museum, Washington, DC 20560, by December 1.

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**Joint HAD and CFA Symposium on the History of Astronomy
To Celebrate HCO Sesquicentennial and SAO Centennial**

To reserve a place for yourself and for your guests at this special symposium, in which invited speakers will address topics pertaining to "Astronomy at Cambridge," please preregister by December 1. Complete this form and send it, with a check payable to HARVARD UNIVERSITY, to

Mrs. Joan Jordan
Center for Astrophysics (MS-9)
60 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Please print or type

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

MEETING ADDRESS _____ (So we can find you for bus service, etc.)

NUMBER IN PARTY _____ (Please list guests on back for nametags.)

REGISTRATION FOR SYMPOSIUM ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1989.

Fee covers luncheon, refreshments at morning and afternoon breaks,
souvenir registration packet, tours of observatory.

Number of People _____ @ \$20.00 \$ _____

ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION ON SATURDAY.

Fee covers service between Copley Place and CFA,
morning and evening.

Number of People _____ @ \$ 5.00 \$ _____

TOUR OF OAK RIDGE OBSERVATORY ON SUNDAY.

Fee covers mid-morning refreshments and round-trip bus
between Copley Place and Harvard, MA.

Number of People _____ @ \$ 7.50 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

RECEPTIONS IN HARVARD YARD, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 8, 1989.

Although there will be no charge to attend the receptions at the Archives and at the Historical Instruments Collection, admittance to them is by invitation only. Everyone attending the Symposium on Saturday will automatically receive such an invitation. If you wish to attend only the receptions on Sunday, send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to Mrs. Joan Jordan at the above address to receive a free invitation.