

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION NEWSLETTER 16 AUGUST 1990

PHILADELPHIA MEETINGS, 14 January 1990

The HAD will meet concurrently with the American Astronomical Society at Philadelphia. It will hold two regular historical sessions on Monday, 14 January, with a regular business meeting one hour before the afternoon session that day. As usual, contributed papers in any area of the history of astronomy or in archaeoastronomy and its related fields are welcome. Contributors are encouraged to consider the rich astronomical traditions surrounding astronomy in the Philadelphia area when planning for the January meetings. And since we will not be having a special day of sessions before or after the regular AAS meetings, our two sessions will likely be filled on a first-come-first-served basis. Further, as yet there are no plans for official receptions or tours of local highlights in astronomical history, but those contemplating Philadelphia should remember that the American Philosophical Society and the Franklin Institute both contain venerable exhibits of interest.

PRELIMINARY SLATE FOR NEW OFFICERS - HAD Nominating Subcommittee

The HAD Nominating Subcommittee (Don Osterbrock, Chairman, LeRoy E. Doggett, Sara Schechner Genuth) slate for the 1990/1991 election is as follows:

For: Vice Chairman: Von Del Chamberlain, Director, Hanson Planetarium, Salt Lake City; Steven J. Dick, Historian, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington D.C.

For: Committee: Dorrit Hoffleit, senior astronomer emeritus, Yale University; Peggy A. Kidwell, specialist, National Museum of American History; J. McKim Malville, astrogeophysics, University of Colorado; Howard Plotkin, historian, University of Western Ontario.

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.

HISTORICAL SESSION, AAS DIVISION OF PLANETARY SCIENCES 22 October 1990, Charlottesville -- Don Yeomans

Don Yeomans has put together a provocative and most interesting program to reflect interests in the AAS Division of Planetary Sciences. The roster for Monday, 22 October is:

Ron Doel (AIP) "Competition and Myth: Solar System Astronomy on the Eve of Space Exploration, 1952 - 1959"
Craig Waff (JPL) "Shooting for the Moon: Projects Red Socks and Baker and the Origins of U.S. Spacecraft Exploration of the Solar System"

Robert A. Brown (StSci) "U.S. Presidents and Astronomical Discovery"
 Philip A. Ianna (Virginia) "History of the McCormick Observatory"
 Curtis A. Wilson (St. Johns) "Daniel Bernoulli and Boscovic Versus Euler on Planetary
 Perturbations: 1748-1752"
 Dennis Rawlins (Loyola) "Was the Ptolemaic Theory Crank?"
 Samuel J. Goldstein (Virginia) "Solar Parallax from Venus Radar"

For further information, contact Don at JPL @ (818) 354-2127
 or FAX (818) 393-6558

HAD MEETING IN SEATTLE, May 1991 -- Woody Sullivan:

The AAS meets between 26 and 30 May, 1991 in Seattle. Woody is putting together a special session for Seattle on the "Opening of the Electromagnetic Spectrum" which will concentrate on late 19th and 20th Century activities. So anyone who has been peering into the history of gamma ray, x-ray, UV, IR, micro-, milli-, and longer ranges of the spectrum, or "other" ranges as well, please contact Woody at the University of Washington (206) 784-1052, if you are interested in giving a paper.

HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY-RELATED SESSIONS AT THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY MEETINGS, SEATTLE, OCTOBER 1990

There are quite a number of interesting sessions at the HSS Seattle meetings, 25-28 October, including:

25 October: "Science and Practice: Artificial Revelation in Modern Astronomy" chaired by John Lankford, with papers by Robert Smith ("Redshifts and Rotations: V. M. Slipher and the Mastery of Spectroscopic Technique"); Karl Hufbauer ("Lyot and the Coronagraph, 1929-1939"); Bruce Hevly ("Exploring the Rocket Ultraviolet in Postwar Astrophysics"); Woody Sullivan ("Is a Radio Telescope a Telescope? The Instruments and Claims of Early Radio Astronomy and Their Acceptance by Astronomers"); Comment by Peter Galison.

26 October: Offerings of interest to historians of astronomy include sessions titled: "Money, Manpower, and Machines: The Rise of American Geophysics as Big Science;" "Fieldwork in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries" includes a paper by Alex Pang (Penn) titled "Empire and Expeditions: The Politics and Culture of Eclipse Observation in India, 1868-1898." A session on "Maxwell and Hertz" includes a fascinating title: "The Psychohistory of Saturn's Rings" by C.W.F. Everitt (Stanford); and "Works in Progress: Modeling and Measurement" includes a paper by Sarah Schechner Genuth (The Adler) "Models of the Universe in the Palm of One's Hand."

27 October: Interesting and related sessions include: "Periodization in the Earth Sciences;" a panel discussion on "Does Big Science Exist? Should It?" as well as "Galileo's Science and Court Culture" with offerings by Robert Westman ("Re-Frying Galileo"); Rivka Feldhay ("Jesuit Theater and Court Culture"); and Mario Biagioli ("Court Culture and Galileo's Trial"). A full session is devoted to "Climate Change in Historical perspective" that offers to be quite exciting in areas bordering astronomical interests; a session on "Huygens, Light, and Gravity;" and finally, there is a full "Works in Progress" session on astronomy, with contributions by James Naiden ("Antoine Pannekoek, 1873-1960"); Howard Plotkin ("John Evans and the Lost Port Orford Meteorite Hoax"); Glen Van Brummelen ("Numerical Calculations in Ptolemy's *Almagest*"); Owen Gingerich ("A Perplexing Family of Annotations in Copernicus' *De revolutionibus*"); Mark Hineline ("Visually Representing the Moon as a Geological Object"); and Herman Erlichson ("Ye Force of All Ye Reflections: Newton's Polygon Model for Circular Motion")

Anyone interested in these meetings, or in the HSS, which by the above roster certainly maintains vigorous attention to the history of astronomy in all its aspects,

contact: The History of Science Society, 215 South 34th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6310. The current president of the HSS is Steve Brush, University of Maryland.

TEXTBOOK INQUIRY

E. F. Milone and David Kelley are producing an archaeoastronomy textbook to be titled "Exploring Ancient Skies." They report that it will deal with ancient astronomy in cultures world wide, and will include an extensive astronomical introduction and comprehensive bibliography. They would like to hear from any practitioners of newly completed works, or works in progress. Contact E. F. Milone, Dept of Physics and Astronomy, University of Calgary, 2500 University Dr., NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4, Canada. FAX: (403) 289-3331; bitnet: Milone@UNCAMULT.

ARE YOU PAID UP?

About 60 HAD members (25% of the membership!) are slipping behind in their dues. Thus far, I have ignored little slips of a few months, but if your membership was up by January 1990, 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. An "N" means you are in good standing. An "X" means you will be dropped by the end of the year if you do not resubmit. Checks made out to the HAD should be sent to D. H. DeVorkin, Rm 3558, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560.

ASTRONOMICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY -- Ruth Freitag

Once again, Ruth comes through. This is the second half of the compilation started last time (without proper acknowledgement by the Secretary, I might add). Ruth reports that business is booming. "This seems to be a banner year for books, and of course journal articles and papers are proliferating as well." By the way, she also reports that her new LC phone number did not get into the directory. It is (202)-707-1217. She was wondering why she has not heard from any HAD folks lately!

And now, here's Ruth ----->>