

# HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION NEWSLETTER 17 NOVEMBER 1990

## *PHILADELPHIA MEETING WITH THE AAS, 14 January 1990*

Contrary to some fears, the papers submitted for Philadelphia promise to be very interesting and will no doubt provide for an excellent day. Note too that we have three papers treating aspects of Philadelphia history. We have been given two sessions on Monday, 14 January, in a very ample room. Hope to see you in Philly!

- Monday, Morning Session. "HAD I" Room: "Philadelphia North" 10:00 - 11:30 am. Chair: **K. Bracher** (times for paper, and questions, in parentheses)
- S. J. Dick** (USNO), "Sears Cook Walker and the Philadelphia High School Observatory." (12 + 4)
- T. R. Williams** (AAVSO), "On the Main Line: Amateur Contributions to Astronomy from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania." (12 + 4)
- T. A. Hockey** (UNI), "An Early Color Rendering of the Planet Jupiter" (poster paper with brief abstract at session of the observations by a Pennsylvania astronomer) (3)
- R. Brashear** (Huntington Library), "A Trustworthy Instrument: Samuel Langley and the Bolometer." (12 + 4)
- R. A. McCutcheon** (CSC), "The Unusual Career of V. T. Ter-Oganezov." (12 + 4)
- S. L. Chapin** (CSULA), "Comets and Calamities: 18th Century ideas about close-approaching comets, from Whiston to Lalande." (12 + 4)

Monday, afternoon, 1:00 - 2:00 pm: HAD Business Meeting in "Philadelphia North." Installation of new officers, discussion of upcoming meetings: of special interest will be proposals for meetings at the Adler and the Huntington Library. If any HAD member wishes to raise issues at this meeting, write immediately to **K. Bracher** or the secretary to be placed on the agenda.

Monday, Afternoon Session. "HAD II" Room: "Philadelphia North" 2:00 - 3:30 pm. Chair: **John Lankford**

- J. B. Irwin** (Tucson), "An Historical Collection of 2,300 Color Slides, 1950 - 1988." (12 + 4)
- G. E. Webb** (Tenn Tech U), "The Return of Omphalos: A Note on Creationist Cosmology." (12 + 4)
- W. Liller** (Chile), "Ancient Polynesian Astronomical Structures." (12 + 4)
- D. Rawlins** (Loyola), "The Ultimate Solar Orbit of Hipparchos." (12 + 4)
- B. E. Schaefer** (GSFC), "The Origin of the Star and Crescent." Invited (20 + 5)

*SLATE FOR NEW OFFICERS: Refer to the end of the Newsletter . . . . .*

*HAD Meeting in Seattle - May 1991 -- Woody Sullivan*

The HAD is planning sessions of both contributed and invited papers at the AAS meeting in Seattle. The meeting proper is from May 27 (Memorial Day) through Thursday 30 May, at a downtown hotel. The HAD will be requesting regular meeting sessions for Monday, as well as a special session (full or half day, depending upon interest) on Sunday, 26 May, on the University of Washington campus. The Sunday session will be a mixture of contributed and invited papers, but the theme will be "The Opening of the

Electromagnetic Spectrum," which I am organizing on the theme of any 19th or 20th century topics that deal primarily with the non-visual portion of the spectrum (also including cosmic rays, neutrinos, gravity waves, etc.) If you are interested in giving a paper on this theme and are likely to be able to come to Seattle, please send me a title now, so I can prepare for either a half or full day session. Contact me at Dept. of Astronomy FM-20, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195; woody@uwaphast.bitnet or woody@phast.phys.washington.edu; or (206) 543-7773.

Note also that since the AAS Seattle meeting is from 26 to 30 May, deadlines will be advanced accordingly. At present, proposals for special sessions are due to the AAS by 21 December, and abstracts will be due by 22 March 1991, which is also the deadline for requests for special meeting rooms.

*DUDLEY OBSERVATORY HERBERT C. POLLACK AWARDS FOR 1991/1992*

Proposals for the eighth season of Herbert C. Pollack Awards are now welcome. Support is provided for innovative projects in the history of astronomy or astrophysics. Maximum award limit is \$10,000 although lesser awards are considered as well. Special consideration will be given to proposals that involve the Dudley Observatory collection of 15th - 18th century rare books in astronomy, or the Dudley Observatory collection of source materials in 19th century astronomy. Institutional overhead is not provided. Applications should include three copies of: (1) description of project including budget, description of current funding; (2) biographical sketch and publications list of proposer; (3) names and affiliations of two scholars able to comment on the proposal; (4) name of the applicant's chairperson. For more information, contact:

Pollack Award Committee  
Dudley Observatory  
69 Union Avenue  
Schenectady, New York 12308

The Deadline for completed applications is 15 December 1990. Successful applicants will be named and notified by mid-January 1991.

*GRANTS-IN-AID for HISTORY OF MODERN PHYSICS AND ALLIED SCIENCES  
(Astronomy, Geophysics, Optics, etc.)*

The Center for History of Physics of the American Institute of Physics has a continuing program of grants-in-aid for research in the history of modern physics and allied science (such as astronomy, geophysics, and optics) and their social interactions. Grants can be up to \$2000. They can be used only to reimburse direct expenses connected with the work. Preference will be given to those who need part of the funds for travel and subsistence to use the resources of the Center's Niels Bohr Library in New York City, or to microfilm papers or to tape-record oral history interviews with a copy deposited in the Library. Applicants should either be working toward a graduate degree in the history of science, or show a record of publication in the field. To apply, send a vitae plus a letter of no more than two pages describing your research project, and include a brief budget showing the expenses for which support is requested. Deadlines for receipt of applications are June 30 and December 31 of each year. Send to

Spencer Weart  
Center for History of Physics  
American Institute of Physics  
335 East 45th Street, New York, NY. 10017.

## *NEWS FROM THE ASP HISTORY COMMITTEE*

Woody Sullivan, Chair of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific History Committee, reports that after their major centennial meetings in Berkeley in 1989, the ASP included a history session at its first east coast meeting held in Boston. Brian Marsden and Barbara Welther from the Center for Astrophysics, and Joann Eisberg from the history department at Harvard (and now at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum as a postdoctoral fellow) gave invited talks. The ASP history committee continues its activities; notably Joe Tenn has initiated a series of brief biographies of Bruce medalists in Mercury. Woody notes that at the rate of publication that Tenn has set, the series will run through AD 2006. Kate Bracher, HAD Chairman, also is active in the ASP, contributing the well-received "Echoes of the Past" column in Mercury.

## *HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY, SEATTLE MEETINGS*

Astronomical history, along with related interests in the history of the physical sciences, especially in geophysics, all were extremely prominent at the October 1990 meetings of the History of Science Society held in Seattle. One reflection of this growing interest was the suggestion, made by Marc Rothenberg and John Lankford, that a special interest group for astronomical history be formed within the HSS. Among its many purposes would be to assist those interested in astronomical history to make contact with one another, as well as to form a medium of information exchange on historiographical issues of broader interest to the community of historians of science and technology generally who might not be fully aware of the value of disciplinary studies within astronomical history. A meeting was held in Seattle to air opinions, and the result is that a small committee has been formed to plan activities for the next HSS meeting, scheduled for Madison, Wisconsin in October 1991. For further information, contact Marc at the Joseph Henry Papers, Smithsonian Institution, or John at the Department of History, University of Missouri at Columbia.

## *DUES OVERDUE AS USUAL*

People still make mistakes about how much dues to pay, and when. About 40 HAD members are still slipping behind in their dues. 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. Thus far, I have ignored little slips of a few months, but if your membership is in jeopardy (look for the X) please take the time to send in your renewal. Remember: HAD regular members: \$6.00/3 years; affiliates: \$15.00/3 years. A regular member is a AAS Full or Associate or Junior member, subject to AAS dues. All others are HAD Affiliates. 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*

Ruth reports: So far as the bibliography is concerned, business is booming. This seems to be a banner year for books, and of course journal articles and papers are proliferating as well. This present listing, all 29 pages of it, reflects her diggings in London at the School of Oriental and African Studies library, the RAS Library, where, she reports, Peter Hingley, provided aid with great enthusiasm. Her latest effort appears at the end of the Newsletter, right after the ballot.

*FINAL SLATE FOR NEW OFFICERS*

The final slate for the 1990/1991 election of new HAD officers is the same as the preliminary prepared by the HAD Nominating Subcommittee (Don Osterbrock, Chairman, LeRoy E. Doggett, Sara Schechner Genuth) slate. There were no write-in candidates. The slate is as follows:

For: Vice Chairman: (Vote for One)

**Von Del Chamberlain**, Director, Hansen Planetarium, Salt Lake City; ethnoastronomy, with specialty in American native cultures. Author of When the Stars Came Down to Earth.

**Steven J. Dick**, Historian, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington D.C.; modern astronomical history with specialties in the history of the USNO and topics relating to life in the universe. Author of Plurality of Worlds.

For: Committee: (Vote for Two)

**Dorrit Hoffleit**, Senior Astronomer Emeritus, Yale University; contemporary history with specialties in the history of Yale Observatory and in the history of meteoric astronomy. Compiler of the Yale Bright Star Catalogue.

**Peggy A. Kidwell**, Specialist, National Museum of American History; modern astronomical history, mathematical instruments, history of concepts of solar energy, contributor to The Dyer's Hand (C. H. Payne Gaposchkin's biographical study)

**J. McKim Malville**, Professor, Department of Astrophysical, Planetary, and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Colorado; solar physics and archaeoastronomy, with specialty interests in Anasazi sites and in classic Hindu sites. Author of Prehistoric Astronomy in the Southwest.

**Howard Plotkin**, Professor of History, University of Western Ontario; modern astronomical history, history of meteoritics, history of Harvard College Observatory during the Pickering Era.

*Please fill out the ballot on the reverse =====>*