

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION NEWSLETTER 18 MARCH 1991

HAD Meeting in Seattle - May 1991 -- Woody Sullivan

Plans are well underway for the HAD symposium on "The Opening of the Electromagnetic Spectrum," to be held the day before the regular AAS meeting, on Sunday, 26 May, 1991. This special symposium also takes place prior to the regular Monday HAD sessions of contributed papers.

The symposium deals with all "non-visual" aspects of twentieth-century astronomy, including not only non-optical wavelength ranges, but also cosmic rays, gravity waves, neutrinos, etc. There is still room on the program, so please contact me (at the address below) ASAP with a topic, title, and requested length of paper. Also, submit an abstract in the usual manner to the AAS. Speakers at this time include Brashear, Cruikshank, Jarrell, Weber, Trimble, Sullivan, Dick, Hevly, and Osterbrock.

The symposium will be held from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on the University of Washington campus, in Room 239 of Savery Hall, directly behind the much-better-known Kane Hall. From the Westin Hotel in Seattle, go to 3rd and Pine (a 5-7 minute walk) and catch bus #73 (at 7:45 or 8:30 am), #71 (8:00), or #72 (8:15) to the University District, specifically University Way NE and NE 42nd Street. The bus ride is about 15-20 minutes and Savery Hall is about a 5-7 minute walk east from the bus stop. Lunch for the symposium will be in local restaurants, and dinner (if you wish) will be a catered affair held on the waterfront of the campus. The dinner will be early so you will be able to catch city bus service back to the Westin in time for the opening AAS reception.

Please send intentions to attend, or to give a paper, and/or to attend the dinner, by phone or wire or bitnet ASAP to Woody Sullivan, woody@phast.phys.washington.edu, or woody@uwaphast.bitnet; or (206) 543-7773. (Dept. of Astronomy FM-20, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195).

[Note 1]: Since the AAS Seattle meeting is from 26 to 30 May, deadlines will be advanced accordingly. Abstracts to the AAS will be due by 22 March 1991. [Note 2]: The AAS failed to mention in the "Preliminary Announcement" for Seattle that HAD members are allowed two contributed papers: one would be for a HAD session only, and the other would be a scientific paper, clearly distinct from the HAD paper.]

RESULTS OF THE 1990 HAD ELECTIONS:

The results of the 1990/1991 election of new HAD officers, based upon an excellent slate prepared by the HAD Nominating Subcommittee (Don Osterbrock, Chairman, LeRoy E. Doggett, Sara Schechner Genuth), are as follows:

Vice Chairman: Steven J. Dick, Historian, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington D.C.
Committee: Dorrit Hoffleit, Senior Astronomer Emeritus, Yale University; Peggy A. Kidwell, Specialist, National Museum of American History.

They assumed their new duties at the 1991 HAD business meeting in Philadelphia, when John Lankford assumed the HAD chairmanship from Kate Bracher. David DeVorkin continues as Secretary/Treasurer. Some 58 HAD members in good standing voted in this election, or about 25 percent of the membership, which was lower than in past elections.

ASP HISTORY SESSION, LARAMIE, WYOMING, 26 JUNE 1991

Woody Sullivan and Don Osterbrock report that the ASP will have a full session of historical papers during their next meeting in Laramie, 21 - 27 1991. Joe Tenn, Woody

Sullivan, and Don Osterbrock are soliciting contributed historical papers for this session from HAD members. Papers on any subject in archaeoastronomy or the history of astronomy will be welcome, but the organizers are looking especially for themes relevant to the ASP sessions. These include the history of robotics in astronomy, or the history of high angular resolution astronomy. Other topics are histories of infrared or nebular astronomy, the study of medicine wheels or other local Native American activities related to astronomy.

Contact any of the above three ASAP if you want to participate. Osterbrock is at (408) 459-7954, or I:don@helios.ucsc.edu. Tenn is at Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928; and Sullivan's address is listed above in the Seattle meeting announcement.

JUNE 1993 MEETING PROPOSAL FROM THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

Please consider a proposal from Ron Brashear, appended to the end of this Newsletter, for a special HAD meeting at the Huntington, to be held just after the AAS summer meetings in Berkeley, 6 - 10 June, 1993. A possible date for the Huntington meeting is Saturday, June 12.

Ron needs to know very soon (by the end of April) how many HAD members would likely be interested in attending such a meeting. Although it is unprecedented in HAD history to hold a meeting far from a AAS site, this is indeed a wonderful chance to examine one of the finest archives/libraries in the world, in one of the most beautiful garden/parks known in the universe.

PHILADELPHIA MEETING WITH THE AAS, 14 January 1991

The dreary Philadelphia winter was brightened a bit by a very nice day of historical papers, punctuated by a useful HAD business meeting. A serious AIP glitch threatened these meetings: AIP failed to send the AAS "Preliminary Announcement" to HAD affiliate members, making it difficult for them to plan to attend, or to provide papers. The AAS Executive office protested, as well as Kate Bracher and David DeVorkin. This will not happen again.

The results and actions of the HAD Business meeting at Philadelphia are listed here:

Finances and Membership: DeVorkin reported that the present HAD balance is \$2166, with approximately another \$900 held in HAD's name by the AAS. The previous year's balance was about \$100 more, but expenses are now increasing, mainly increased mailing rates, management fees levied by the AAS Executive Office, and bank account service fees. If the balance drops significantly in the next year or two, the HAD should consider an increase in membership fee, as well as a normalization of payment structure tied to the AAS fee cycle. There are now 242 members in good standing, and 21 have been dropped in 1990/91, as their dues were seriously in arrears.

AAS Membership Obituary Notices: It was announced at the HAD Business meeting that the AAS Council had: "Accepted a motion that an obituary for any member could be published in the BAAS, but that the Historical Astronomy Division decide upon its length. In other words, most deceased members would receive a one-line obituary notice, but the HAD will select those members for whom a longer obituary would be of historical interest. The HAD will establish a committee to oversee this task. The Publications Board recommended that page charges for obituaries be borne by the AAS."

The HAD Obituary Notice Committee consists of Steve Dick, John Lankford, and Steve Brush. At the Business meeting Steve distributed a listing of "HAD Recommended Procedures" for preparing and publishing obituary notices in the

BAAS, identifying timing (once per year); coverage (U.S. and foreign members); length (up to two ms. pages); procedures for identifying authors and source materials; and editorial oversight, in the establishment of an "Obituary Editorial Board" to advise the BAAS. Steve's report was read and approved at the HAD Business meeting.

Future meetings: Seattle, Atlanta, Chicago (at the Adler, June 1992), and Huntington were discussed, which led to a broader discussion of setting policy on the frequency of meetings. For the present, the informal policy holds that the HAD will continue to meet at the Winter AAS meeting (Atlanta W1992; Phoenix W1993; Washington DC W1994), whether or not it was invited to do so by a local host. Summer meetings, however, will take place only if the HAD receives a definite invitation from a local host ready to plan special-topic symposia or related historical activities.

New Business:

- (1) John Lankford discussed the recent History of Science Society initiative to establish an Astronomy Interest Group, and its possible parallel interests with the HAD. The HSS group will meet at the next annual meeting in Wisconsin, in October. Contact John Lankford or Marc Rothenberg for details. (See also Newsletter 17 for a description of the first HSS meeting.)
- (2) Calls from the floor were made for more HAD activity in archaeoastronomy. Replies indicated that HAD activities are a reflection of membership interests. If anyone wishes to stimulate more attention to any aspect of astronomical history, archaeology, or ethnology, he or she is free to do so. The Secretary welcomes input, especially names of addresses of editors of relevant newsletters, to facilitate exchanges of information.
- (3) A call from the floor was made to publish a listing of all HAD members in good standing. A listing compiled on 2/15/91 appears in this issue, along with yet another plea to take dues seriously.

DUDLEY OBSERVATORY HERBERT C. POLLACK AWARDS FOR 1991/1992

The Board of Trustees of the Dudley Observatory announces that the eighth annual competition for the Herbert C. Pollack Award for research in the History of Astronomy and Astrophysics has been completed, with the following result:

- \$10,000 Pollack Award: Sara Schechner Genuth, Newberry Library, "Comets, Popular Culture, and the Rise of Modern Cosmology."
 \$6,000 Dudley Award: Steven James Harris, Harvard University, "Jesuit Observatories, 1700-1773: Forgotten Research Sites for 18th Century Astronomy & Meteorology."
 \$4,000 Dudley Award: David H. DeVorkin, Smithsonian Institution, "Henry Norris Russell and the Emergence of Modern Astrophysics in America."

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:

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

HAD MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS, AND THE DUES STRUCTURE

All types of HAD members are still make mistakes about how much dues to pay, and when. I get checks for \$12.00, \$4.00, and other random amounts. Also, affiliates constantly think they pay only \$6.00. My tactic is not to reply personally to each and every one of you, but to prorrate your dues schedule accordingly, which is a hassle. 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 June 1991 if you do not resubmit. Regular members of the AAS: \$6.00/3 years; Affiliates (members of other societies): \$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.

There are 242 members of the HAD in good standing, with 131 regular, and 56 affiliates, 11 Associate AAS members, 2 Junior AAS members, and 42 Corporate members. 21 members were dropped this year, and 61 renewed their membership.

The following listing of HAD members in good standing includes: Name, member category: F: Full; A: Affiliate; S: Special (Associate AAS, or special status); J: Junior; C = Corporate, date of membership lapse; status (all should be n).

The Huntington Library in San Marino (near Pasadena), California, is planning an exhibit based on their holdings in the history of astronomy. This exhibit will open in the summer of 1993 and thus coincide with the 450th anniversary of Copernicus's death. In conjunction with this, the Huntington is interested in hosting the HAD in June, 1993. Copernicus could provide a theme for the HAD meeting, but papers on any subject would be welcomed. Such a meeting would probably be held just after the AAS meeting in Berkeley, scheduled for June 6-10. A possible date is Saturday, June 12. Members could thus attend both meetings while on the West Coast.

The Huntington has a large meeting room and lunch facilities. There are plenty of hotels & motels in the Pasadena area, but they are not quite within walking distance. It is possible that a block of rooms could be reserved in a local hotel (thus easing local travel problems), but it would be necessary to have a sufficient number of attendees to do this. The Huntington, therefore, is requesting that each member who is interested in attending a June 1993 conference please fill out the information below and return it (or a photocopy) to the Huntington by the end of April, 1991. Returning the information does not imply a commitment on anybody's part.

YES, I would be interested in attending a meeting of the HAD in June, 1993, at the Huntington Library.

Name _____

Would you: ___ Make your own lodging arrangements.
(check one) ___ Be willing to stay at a predetermined hotel/motel.

Would you be willing to contribute a paper?
 ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure

Do you plan to attend the 1993 AAS meeting in Berkeley?
 ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure

Do you have any further comments or suggestions?

Please return this form to:
Ronald Brashear, Manuscripts Department, Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road,
San Marino, CA 91108