

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 1985

THE HOUSTON AAS MEETINGS

o THE HAD SPECIAL SESSION

On Sunday, January 5, 1986, the HAD will hold a special session on "Modern Astronomical History". The session will be held from 2:00 to 4:30 P.M. in Room 301 Cleveland Sewall Hall on the Rice University Campus (building #13 on the enclosed map). Albert Van Helden, our host, writes that the Shamrock Hilton is about a mile south of the Rice campus on South Main Street. Taxi cabs are available from the Shamrock, but in good weather the walk is pleasant and not strenuous. He also has arranged for Rice University Shuttle Bus service from the Shamrock, which will depart the Shamrock at 1:00 PM and return around 5:00 PM.

Session Chair: E. Krupp

Invited Talk: D. S. Evans and J. D. Mulholland
(Department of Astronomy, U. of Texas, Austin)
"THE HISTORY OF McDONALD OBSERVATORY"

Contributed Talks:

- B. Welther (CfA): "Shapley's Calibration of the P-L Curve."
- V. Trimble (UC Irvine): "Death and the Astronomer: Effect of Cessation of Personal Influence upon Rates of Citation of Astronomical Papers."
- B. Corbin and L. Doggett (USNO): "Simon Newcomb: A New View."
- D. DeVorkin (NASM): "A Spectrum of the Sun from a Balloon-Borne Spectrograph in 1899."
- K. Hufbauer (NASA/History): "The Solar-Stellar Connection in Historical Perspective."
- T. Williams (AAVSO): "Roberts of Lovedale: Amateur Astronomer and Humanist."
- D. Osterbrock (Lick): "Nicholas T. Bobrovnikoff and the Scientific Study of Comet Halley, 1910."
- J. Tatarewicz (NASM): "The Persistence of Lowell's Legacy: Life, Mars, and the U.S. Space Program 1958 - 1967."

If you are attending this special session, one day before the regular meetings of the AAS commence, be sure to arrange for an early arrival if you are staying at the Shamrock.

AAS Registration itself begins on Sunday, January 5, 6:00 to 10:00 PM in the Grand Foyer, Shamrock Hilton, as you will learn from the AAS Program. We hope to have a short list of local restaurants and explicit directions to the Rice campus available at the Shamrock by Sunday morning.

HAD SESSION I "16th to 18th Century Astronomical History"
Monday, January 6 10:30 - 12:00 Noon Camellia Room
(The Shamrock)

Session Chair: D. DeVorkin

Invited Talk: A. Van Helden (Rice)
"CASSINI, FLAMSTEED, AND HALLEY ON THE
DIMENSIONS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM"

Invited Talk: G. Reaves (USC)
"LEONARDO DA VINCI'S LUNAR OBSERVATIONS"

Contributed Talks:

- L. Hill (N.Tex.St.U.): "Kepler's Mysterium
Cosmographicum: The Most Fruitful Error in
the History of Astronomy."
- R. Schmidt (USNO): "Samuel Scott's Comet Halley of
1759."
- D. Byrd (U. Texas): "STARDATE: The Astronomy News
Report." (Note: This is a special
presentation that will be of wide popular
interest)

HAD BUSINESS MEETING: CAMELLIA ROOM 12:00 Noon - 1:00

The Business meeting will follow the morning session. Among various agenda items will be the question of the HAD dues for Division Affiliates.

A clear majority of the respondents to the September questionnaire (even though only 22 Regular and 14 Affiliate members responded) favor increasing the dues of the Affiliates so that the names of all HAD members be listed in the AAS Membership Directory. Several respondents expressed the fact that the increase was a small one, in light of the fact that Regular members pay \$65 dollars per year for AAS membership. In brief, 31 members (19 Regular, 12 Affiliate) favored inclusion, while 5 members were against inclusion (3 Regular, 2 Affiliate). Using the results of the questionnaire, the HAD Executive Committee will meet on Sunday afternoon to formulate a resolution for ratification at the HAD business meeting on Monday.

Other business items to be covered are the ratification of the By-Law changes resulting from the AAS Council's approval of the HAD requests described in previous Newsletters. Additional items for the agenda are invited from all HAD members -- send your requests to Edwin Krupp.

AAS INVITED LECTURER

We are delighted to have Professor Michael Hoskin, Editor of the Journal for the History of Astronomy and the Archaeoastronomy Supplement, as an invited speaker. He will speak on:

HARLOW SHAPLEY: 1885 - 1972

PLACE: GRAND BALLROOM, SHAMROCK HILTON

TIME: 1:45 - 2:35 PM Monday January 6

HAD SESSION II: "Archeo and Classical Themes"
Monday, January 6, 2:40 - 4:40 PM Camellia Room

Session Chair: K. Bracher

Invited Talk: M. Young (U. Texas)
"ETHNOASTRONOMY AND CULTURAL SYMBOLISM: THE
PROBLEM OF INTERPRETATION."

Contributed Talks:

- W. Murawski (Lenoir-Rhyne C.): "Monitoring Phases
of the Moon and Eclipse Prediction with
Mayan Time Cycles."
J. Malville (Colorado): "Mt Meru Cosmology in
Tibetan Buddhism."
M. Zeilik (U. N.Mex.): "Historic Pueblo Moon
Watching: Shalako at Zuni."
E. Krupp (Griffith): "Seven Brides for Seven
Brothers."
S. Goldstein (UVa): "The Mean Motion of the Planets
in the Almagest."
D. Comstock (SUNY:Stnybrk): "'Grimnismal 10': Old
Norse Astronomy
D. Rawlins (Loyola): "Physkon, Cleopatra, &
Antonius Tables: Ancient Ephemerides Base."

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RICE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - HOUSTON, TEXAS

