

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION  
NEWSLETTER MAY 1986

Division Annual Report -- Ed Krupp

In January 1986, the Historical Astronomy Division held its sixth annual meeting in conjunction with the 167th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society at Houston, Texas. Attendance at the historical sessions averaged 60 throughout all three sessions. The first of these, an independent session, was held on the campus of Rice University on the Sunday afternoon prior to the opening of the A.A.S. meeting, with the cooperation of the Rice University History Department and Dr. Albert Van Helden. Twenty-one papers were presented--four of them invited, and topics ranged from the history of McDonald Observatory to Leonardo da Vinci's drawings of surface features on the moon. These drawings are the oldest known drawings of lunar surface features. Three papers relating to Comet Halley and Edmund Halley provided an appropriate nod to the 1985-86 Comet Halley world tour. Donald Osterbrock's presentation on Nickolas T. Bobrovnikoff and his work on Comet Halley in 1910 prompted the Division to approve the preparation of a letter of greeting and appreciation to Dr. Bobrovnikoff by the Division Chairman on behalf of the Historical Astronomy Division in this year of Comet Halley's return. Archaeoastronomical and ethnoastronomical subjects ranged from the Zuni of the American Southwest to the Tantric Buddhists of Tibet.

The Division Business Meeting was held at noon, on Monday, 6 January 1986. Division Chairman E.C. Krupp presided. An important decision concerning dues was reached and ratified. Division dues for Regular members remains at \$6.00 for three years. Affiliate members will be charged \$15.00, beginning with 1986, to cover the A.I.P. charge of \$3.00/year for listing an Affiliate's name and address in the A.A.S. Directory. AAS Council policy provides only two options: Either 1) all Affiliates must be listed, or 2) none may be listed. In a survey of the Division members, the option of listing and charging Affiliate members an additional fee was clearly preferred.

Time and place for the next Division meeting were discussed. The seventh annual meeting will be held in Pasadena, in January, 1987, in conjunction with the 169th meeting of the AAS. A special session and a field trip probably will be scheduled in addition to regular sessions and a business meeting. The Executive Committee of the Division includes:

Chairman	E.C. Krupp
Vice-Chairman	Donald Osterbrock
Secretary/Treasurer	David H. DeVorkin
Committee members	Katherine Bracher
	Von Del Chamberlain
	Owen Gingerich (past Chairman)

## Dues and Membership Status -- David DeVorkin

Only a little more than one hundred members of the HAD (both Affiliate and Regular) have responded to last year's call for membership renewal. Of the some three hundred plus listed members, at least one hundred are now overdue by at least several years. While the HAD budget is quite small, going mainly for mailing costs and abstract and registration fees for invited speakers at HAD meetings, the only way to raise and maintain this budget is by these very modest HAD dues.

On the last page of this Newsletter is a printout of your present status. It has been prepared from as many sources as I could get together, and now requires your examination. Aside from your name and address, etc., please check that your membership status (Regular, Affiliate) is correct, and also that your dues status is correct. Everyone should have a "Last Paid" entry.

IF YOUR "LAST PAID" ENTRY IS BLANK OR MORE THAN THREE YEARS OLD, AND YOU HAVE REASON TO SUSPECT THAT THIS IS NOT CORRECT, PLEASE RETURN THE COMPUTER PRINTOUT ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER, SUITABLY CORRECTED. OTHERWISE, I WILL EXPECT YOU TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. A SECOND WARNING WILL BE ISSUED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

Dues for Regular members remains at \$6.00 for three years. Dues for Affiliates has become a bit more complicated:

### -- Affiliate Dues

As Ed Krupp reviewed above, based upon a questionnaire sent to HAD members last year, and ratification by those present at the HAD business meeting at the January AAS meetings in Houston, there will be a surcharge levied on all Affiliate members of the HAD to cover costs of printing Affiliate names in the annual AAS membership directory. The HAD Executive Committee proposed, and the membership ratified, the condition that all Affiliates must pay this surcharge, and that consequently, all HAD members' names will appear in the AAS Directory. The AIP charges the AAS \$3.00 per name per year, and will start charging this year; the three year surcharge amounts to \$9.00. Please refer to previous HAD Newsletters for the whole story of how this situation arose. In brief, the AIP has levied this surcharge if Affiliates' names are to be included in the Directory, and we voted that they should be.

Since members all have different anniversary dates for paying dues, I shall ask each of you to determine when your dues are to be renewed from looking at the attached printout, and then determine what amount of surcharge is expected to bring the surcharge in line with your dues cycle.

If you last paid, for example, in May, 1985, your next dues date will be May, 1988, and so approximately two years remain. To bring the surcharge date in line with your anniversary date, then, please remit two years', or \$6.00,

surcharge. Those who paid sometime in 1984 should remit \$3.00, etc.

Of course, if your dues are now up and you wish to renew basic membership, you will be expected to pay the full (\$6.00 + \$9.00) \$15.00 membership fee.

#### -- The Next HAD Meeting

At the January meeting in Houston, members decided to meet next at JPL with the AAS in January, 1987. Your Executive Council is now planning for a one day (two session) special meeting on Friday, January 9, 1987 as well as special activities such as a field tour on Saturday, January 10, and two paper sessions during the regular AAS meetings, possibly on Thursday, January 8.

#### -- Fall HAD Elections

HAD elections for the Executive Committee will again take place this fall, with new officers installed at the Pasadena AAS meetings. The Nomination Subcommittee, per the By-Laws, will be chaired by the immediate past chairman, Owen Gingerich, and two members of the HAD who will provide a slate of candidates for a new Vice-Chairman and two Committee members.

#### -- 1988 IAU Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland

Commission 41 of the IAU (History of Astronomy) has approved tentative plans for a three-day specialist meeting on the history of astronomical navigation, to cover all time periods from earliest known techniques to the present day including 20th century terrestrial and celestial navigation, on or in oceans of water, air and space.

While plans are still forming, it is contemplated that part of the symposium will take place in Washington D.C. at the National Air and Space Museum on July 31, 1988, one day before the IAU convenes in Baltimore in August 1988, and part will take place in Baltimore during the regular sessions. The Smithsonian and the U.S. Naval Observatory will cohost the Washington portion, which will include two sessions for papers and a reception at the Observatory.

David DeVorkin, LeRoy Doggett, Robert Smith and Brenda Corbin constitute the Local Organizing Committee, and they along with Jack Eddy, President of Commission 41, are drafting proposals now for approval by the IAU Executive Committee. While we are not yet soliciting for contributed papers, we would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in the specialist session. Relevant subject matter areas range from timekeeping (from sand clocks to atomic clocks) to computational methods (especially the application of computers to the production of ephemerides, etc.) to the guidance and control of spacecraft as

well as traditional themes in navigation. We would like to encourage those who have played a direct role in the application of new technologies to astronomical navigation to present papers based upon their lifework. Non-IAU members will be able to contribute papers at the one-day session held in Washington. Contact David DeVorkin.

-- American Astronomical Society Meeting Programs -- Brenda Corbin

The U. S. Naval Observatory is trying to obtain a complete collection of American Astronomical Society Programs issued before each meeting. However, we still have a few gaps in the collection. Photocopies of these issues would be welcome, and we will be happy to pay copying charges. We are lacking the following issues: No. 69 (Dec 1942); No. 70 (May 1943); No. 75 (June 1945); No. 76 (Dec 1946); No. 79 (June 1948); No. 120 (Dec 1965); No. 132 (June 1970). Please contact Brenda Corbin, Library, U. S. Naval Observatory

-- Centennial History of the Lick Observatory -- Don Osterbrock

Donald E. Osterbrock is currently writing, with John R. Gustafson (Science Writer) and William J. Unruh (Lick Amateur Historian) a centennial history of Lick Observatory. Its working title is "Lick Observatory: The First Century." It is scheduled to be published by the University of California Press in late 1987, the year before the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Observatory in June, 1888. The book will be a short, popular history, with many photographs and illustrations. Osterbrock previously wrote James E. Keeler, Pioneer American Astro-physicist: And the Early History of American Astrophysics published by Cambridge University Press in 1984.

-- Recent Publications of Note

- o Philip C. Keenan, Sonia Pinto and Héctor Alvarez. The Chilean National Astronomical Observatory (1852-1965) (University of Chile, 1985) Pp. 160. In spanish and english. Illustrated, no index.
- o Steven J. Dick and LeRoy E. Doggett, eds. Sky with Ocean Joined (Proceedings of the Sesquicentennial Symposia of the U. S. Naval Observatory, December 5 and 8, 1980) Pp. ix + 190. U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington D.C. 1983. Illustrated, no index, appendices. \$10.00 paper.
- o Jane L. Jervis. Cometary Theory in Fifteenth-Century Europe (Reidel, 1985). Pp. 209. Bibliography, index, facsimile reproductions. \$39.00 cloth.
- o Albert Van Helden. Measuring the Universe: Cosmic Dimensions from Aristarchus to Halley (Chicago, 1985) Pp. 203. Notes, Index and Bibliography.