

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER, 1986

-- Results of Election

The results of the ballot sent to all HAD members in the September Newsletter are as follows:

Vice-Chairman: Katherine Bracher

Committee Members: Arthur Hoag, Barbara Welther

Some 59 HAD regular and affiliate members voted in this election. The above members will take office after the January, 1987 AAS meetings in Pasadena, when Donald Osterbrock assumes the Chairmanship and David DeVorkin continues as Secretary/Treasurer. This year, the nominating committee consisted of Owen Gingerich (Chair), Woody Sullivan, and John Carlson.

-- HAD SESSIONS AT THE JANUARY AAS MEETING:

The HAD will have three excellent paper sessions at the AAS meetings, and a rock art site tour on Saturday, as planned. Two of the paper sessions are during the regular sessions on Thursday, and the third will be on Friday afternoon at the Clark Library.

Each invited talk will last for twenty minutes and each contributed talk for ten minutes. This will leave room for discussion in some of the sessions, as might be determined from the time allotted.

At the time of the release of this Newsletter, Ed Krupp received insufficient registration for a chartered bus to the Clark Library. We therefore will be setting up a ride-pool system for anyone who needs transportation. Sign-up sheets will be available during HAD sessions I and II as well as during the Business Meeting. People with cars are urged to come forward!

The presentations will be as follows:

HAD Session I: Thursday, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Room C312 (second floor of the Convention Center)

"Ancient Historical Records and Archaeoastronomy"

Katherine Bracher (Whitman) - Chair

- F. C. Bruhweiler (Catholic U.) "The Historical Record for Sirius: Evidence for a White Dwarf Thermonuclear Runaway?" (Invited Paper)
- Y. L. Huang (U. Mass.) "A Revisit of the Guest Stars of A.D. 185 and 1181."
- K. Yau and F. R. Stephenson (Durham) "Some New Light on Historical Novae and Supernovae."
- K. Pang (JPL), K. Yau (Durham) and H.-h. Chou (UCLA) "The Bamboo Analysis Passage 'The Day Dawned Twice': A Record of the Sunrise Eclipse of April 21, 899 BC."
- J. H. Robinson (S. Florida) "Results of Field Work at the Fort Smith Medicine Wheel."
- W. Straka (Lockheed) "Solar Alignments in Australian Aboriginal Rock Art."
- A. Sofaer (Solstice Project), R. Sinclair (NSF) "Astronomic and Related Patterning in the Architecture of the Chaco Culture of New Mexico."
- K. Brecher, A. Brecher, K. Brecher, and D. Brecher (Boston U.) "Avdat: A Nabataean Solstice Temple?"

HAD Business Meeting: Directly follows morning session in same room. Ed Krupp (Chair) For Discussion: Location of Next Meeting, etc. (Ed Krupp, presiding)

Special Invited AAS Lecture: Karl Hufbauer (U. Cal Irvine)
"The Stellar Energy Problem from Eddington to Bethe, 1924 - 1939." 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Convention Center location to be announced)

HAD Session II: Thursday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Room C312 (second floor of the Convention Center)

"Modern Astronomy"

Joseph S. Tenn (Sonoma St. U.) - Chair

- J. Hall (Lowell) "A. James Robertson, the Controversial and Colorful Director of the Nautical Almanac Office." (Invited Paper)
- E. R. Paul (Dickenson) "George Ellery Hale, J. C. Kapteyn and International Astronomy at Mount Wilson."

(cont.)

- D. E. Osterbrock (Lick) "Number Two Club: How Lick Observatory
Finally got its Second Largest Telescope in the World."
D. DeVorkin (NASM) "C. G. Abbot's Balloon Pyrheliometer"
J. Tatarewicz (NASM) "To The Planets on a Firm Basis--Origins of
the JPL Table Mountain Observatory, 1957 - 1965."
T. R. Williams (AAVSO) "Ingalls, Porter and the Amateur
Telescope Making Movement."
B. Welther (CFA) "Guilt by Association: How Mrs. Harlow Shapley
Lost Her Job."

HAD Session III: Friday, 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM at the William
Andrews Clark Memorial Library.

"Classical and Early Modern Astronomy"

Ed Krupp (Griffith Obs.) -- Chair

This special HAD session, held at the Clark Library, in
the West Adams district of Los Angeles (address: 2520 Cimarron
Street), will begin with a welcome by the Library's director,
Professor Norman Thrower. The library is owned and operated by
U.C.L.A. and Professor Thrower will provide some remarks on its
astronomical collections. A tour of the library will follow the
paper session.

Since this will be a half-day session, there will be no
organized lunch as planned, and transportation will be arranged
informally during the regular sessions on Thursday, through
sign-up sheets that will be distributed.

Papers:

- S. L. Chapin (Cal State L.A.) "Lalande and the Calendar of the
French Revolution: A Case of Paternity?" (Invited Talk)
C. A. McMenemy (RAND) "Johannes Baptista Capuanus' Commentary on
the De Sphaera of Johannes Sacrobosco: The Argument for
Astronomy as a Physical Science in the Late 15th
Century." (Invited Talk)
T. D. Worthen (Arizona) "The Pleiades between the Lines in
Hesoid's Works and Days."
S. Mohammad Hadi Hadavi (Shiraz U.) "Another Report for
Observation of Venus Transit by Avicenna and its Effects
on Ancient Astronomy." (Dissertation Presentation, 20
minutes)
C. B. Waff (JPL) "Thomas Stevenson of Barbados and Comet
Halley's 1759 Return."
W. T. Murawski (N. Carolina) "Dresden Codex Eclipse Table and
the Nine Lords."

-- HAD Archaeoastronomical Field Trip
Saturday, 10 January 1986 (Ed Krupp)

The tour bus will depart from the Pasadena Hilton at 8:00 AM sharp. Access to the Burro Flats site is highly restricted and only those with paid advance reservations may participate. This trip will be limited to one busload only and may be fully booked by the time you read this second announcement. If you have not made a reservation, please call HAD Chairman Ed Krupp at Griffith Observatory -- (213) 664 - 1181 soon to find if any openings remain. The cost is \$25 (payment to Ed Krupp on behalf of the HAD). Sites on the tour will include Burro Flats, on the Rocketdyne Santa Susana Test Facility (this site is not normally open to visitors) and Agua Dulce Canyon, where a half dozen petroglyph and pictograph panels can be seen. Attributed to Chumash and Alliklik Indians, these sites include numerous celestial symbols and contain signs of what may have been ritual astronomical activity. A memorable alfresco California lunch will be provided by professional caterers in the setting of Vasquez Rocks, a well-known location for shooting canonical westerns. The bus will return to the Pasadena Hilton at about 5:00 PM.

-- The Dues Situation

To date, since our September call, we have received 54 more responses from regular and affiliate members, and again the regulars have been more forthcoming.

You can assume that all is well with your membership in HAD if you do not receive an extra page in this Newsletter that indicates your status. (page 7 with print-out on back)

Only those members who have not responded to earlier pleas and who are overdue in paying either basic dues (for regular and affiliate members: \$6.00/three years) or the surcharge (for affiliate members only: \$3.00/year, prorated to fit expiration date of present membership) will receive this extra page.

The extra page is being sent to 146 HAD members who are overdue. For quite a few there is absolutely no record of having paid any dues (both "last paid" and "paid thru" are blank) and for many the "paid thru" is 12/31/83, which apparently is the default date from the formation of the HAD. People in these categories have never responded, according to our records, and so will be dropped forthwith unless they reply. This is a significant portion of our membership, and we are now at the point with this second warning that those who still do not respond (one way or another) will be dropped from the membership list before the next HAD Newsletter mailing, although I will try to give another warning to those people (especially affiliates) who have recently paid, but who have not paid the surcharge.

If you receive the extra page, and if you do not agree with your status, you must correct it on the sheet and send it back to me. In some cases I might have mistaken a payment of \$6.00 (for example) for payment of the basic membership fee when you intended it to be two years' prorated surcharge. A re-explanation of the prorating formula will appear on the back of the extra sheet. (page 7) I will do my best to correct any remaining errors, and hope that you will let me know about them. But for now:

IF I DO NOT RECEIVE ANY RESPONSE FROM THOSE TO WHOM THE SHEET HAS BEEN SENT, EITHER TO PAY UP OR TO POINT TO AN ERROR IN MY RECORDS, THOSE NAMES WILL BE DROPPED FROM HAD MEMBERSHIP BEFORE THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

-- A Concise Guide to HAD Member Rights and Responsibilities (Ed Krupp)

Recent inquiries prompt a brief restatement of HAD bylaws concerning participation at AAS meetings:

1. Any member of the HAD may present an historical paper at HAD meetings. If that member is also a regular member of the AAS, he or she may also present a scientific paper during a scientific session.
2. All HAD members must register for the AAS meeting if the HAD session is held in conjunction with a AAS meeting.
3. Affiliate members of the HAD must register as non-AAS members for the AAS/HAD meeting.

If there are any questions about these points, feel free to bring them up at the AAS Business meeting on Thursday, or feel free to write any of the officers of the HAD.

-- News of the Profession

American Physical Society Symposium on "The History of Astrophysics in the 20th Century." APS Meetings, Crystal City, VA April 21 - 22, 1987.

Miriam Forman and Martin Harwit have co-organized a fascinating two-session symposium bringing together historians of modern physics and astronomy with major figures in modern

astrophysics to provide both personal and broad perspectives on the development of the discipline. On the first day S. Chandrasekhar, H. Bethe, E. Salpeter and R. Davis will comment on their contributions to stellar structure and the origin of stellar energy, with K. Hufbauer and L. Badash providing historical commentary. On the second day, R. Alpher, R. Herman, W. Fowler and R. W. Wilson will review aspects of the history of stellar composition, the birth of the universe and the origin of the elements, with D. DeVorkin and R. Smith adding historical commentary. Co-sponsored by the History Division and the Astrophysics Division of the APS, this two-day symposium will be both informative to physicists and astronomers, and provide interesting perspective on the growth of critical areas of modern astrophysics.

Recent Publications of Note:

Zdenek Kopal, Of Stars and Men: Reminiscences of an Astronomer (Adam Hilger, 1986) Pp. 486

A personal accounting of Kopal's astronomical life, with detailed anecdotal discussions about those astronomers he has known and worked with in America, Britain and around the world.

Harrie Massey and M. O. Robins, History of British Space Science (Cambridge, 1986) Pp. 514

Massive detailed account from World War II to the present by one of the founders. Reviews major sounding rocket series, satellite programs, international cooperation and the IGY.

A. Mandrino, G. Tagliaferri, and P. Tucci (compilers) Catalogo della corrispondenza degli Astronomi di Brera 1726 - 1799 (Volume 1) (Universita Degli Studi Di Milano, 1986) Pp. 427.

Item by item finding aid for correspondence archived at the observatory. Detailed cross-index of correspondents, with brief biographical information on each name.

"Henry Rowland and Astronomical Spectroscopy," edited by R. C. Henry, D. H. DeVorkin and P. Beer. Vistas In Astronomy 29 #2 1986, pp. 115 - 236. This special volume contains papers by historians D. Warner and R. Kargon and by astronomers and physicists J. Strong, L. Spitzer, H. W. Babcock, R. Tousey, G. Herzberg, and E. G. Loewen on the application of the Rowland grating to astronomy.