

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1987

HAD Business Meeting -- *Don Osterbrock, Chairman*

Austin January 11, 1988

The HAD Business meeting, to be held at 1:00 PM on Monday, January 11 in the Sabine Room, is likely to be a busy one. Thus far the following matters will be raised:

- 1) Expanding relations with other AAS divisions as well as historical divisions in other professional societies (AGU, APS, etc.) through joint meetings and shared newsletters.
- 2) Discussion of appointments to HAD Nominating Committee.
- 3) Discussion of suggestion that meeting registration fees be reduced for HAD affiliate members who attend only the HAD sessions at AAS meetings. It is a worthy consideration and how should we approach the matter with the AAS?
- 4) Plans for upcoming meetings at Boston and Ann Arbor in 1989.
- 5) The question of expanded roles for the HAD Newsletter and general HAD activities: What would you like to see your division provide in the way of coordination of historical activities, communications, etc. that are not being done at present? What perceived needs in the history of astronomy are not being met? (These questions are prompted by an extremely helpful letter from Don Yeomans which will be read at the meeting to open discussion.)

Austin -- *David DeVorkin*

Nineteen papers in three sessions, a display of ancient astronomical texts, as well as a AAS invited panel on the history of Lick Observatory will make for an active history program at the January 1988 meetings in Austin. We will have one contributed paper session on Sunday, January 10, from 1:00 through 4:30 PM at the Academic Center on the University of Texas campus, and on Monday, January 11, we will have two contributed paper sessions at 10:00 - 11:30 am and 2:00 - 3:30 pm. The Invited Panel Discussion on the History of Lick Observatory is scheduled for Monday, 3:40 - 5:00 pm. We plan the HAD Business meeting for 1:00 pm Monday in the same room (The Sabine Room) reserved for our afternoon session. Particulars follow:

**** Sunday, January 10, 1:00 - 4:30 PM**

Our host, David Evans, has arranged for bus service from the convention hotel to the university campus to start at 12:30 and to run on the hour through the afternoon. The day will start with an informal hour in the Academic Center where HAD members will view the special exhibit he created for the Center's Atrium. On display will be some of the earliest and most notable printed works on astronomy in the University collection. The paper session will begin promptly at 2:00 PM:

NOTE TO SPEAKERS: WE MUST FINISH EACH CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSION ON TIME. THIS MEANS THAT EACH SPEAKER MUST PREPARE HIS OR

HER CONTRIBUTED PAPER SO IT CAN BE DELIVERED IN TEN MINUTES AND NO LONGER, ALLOWING TIME FOR FIVE MINUTES OF DISCUSSION.

HAD SESSION I: Biography and Classical Astronomy

Chair: Katherine Bracher

- D. S. Evans, "Jean-Charles Houzeau" (invited 25 minutes)
- T. R. Williams, "Oscar Monnig and the Pe a Blanca Springs Meteorite"
- R. E. Schmidt, "H. P. Tuttle: Cometseeker"
- K. Krisciunas, "The Second Otto Struve: Separating Legend From Fact"
- I. A. Ahmad, "Did Muhammad Observe the Canterbury Swarm?"
- W. H. Donahue, "The Concept of 'Mora' and the Origin of Kepler's Second Law of Planetary Motion"
- L. C. Hill, "The Progression of Planetary Astronomy from Hipparchos to Kepler"

**** Monday, January 11**

HAD SESSION II: Modern History 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Sabine Room

Chair: Donald Osterbrock

- R. W. Smith, "The Discovery of Neptune: The Cambridge Network in Action"
- C. J. Peterson, "The United States Navy Corps of Professors of Mathematics"
- D. H. DeVorkin, "How Telescope Mirrors Became Aluminized"
- M. G. Firneis, "An Astronomical Slide Rule from the Turn of the Century"
- N. Sperling, "Introductory Astronomy Textbooks Through the Centuries"
- J. S. Sweitzer, "How to Conduct an Observing Session for the Public using Remotely Operated Telescope"

HAD BUSINESS MEETING 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Sabine Room

See Chairman's message for details

HAD SESSION III: Ancient and Archaeoastronomy 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Sabine Room

Chair: David DeVorkin

- B. E. Schaefer, "An Algorithm for Predicting the Visibility of the Lunar Crescent"
- T. D. Worthen, "Polyonymy for Star in the Indo-European Languages"
- M. Zeilik and M. A. Lowther, "Calendrical Sunwatching at Kuana Pueblo"
- J. M. Malville, K. Brownsberger, J. Jacobs and R. Poglitsch, "Sun Shrines and Spatial Asymmetries at Two Northern Anasazi Sites"
- R. M. Sinclair, A. Sofaer, J. M. McCann and J. McCann, Jr., "Marking of Lunar Major Standstill at the Three-Slab Site on Fajada Butte"
- A. Sofaer, R. M. Sinclair and R. Williams, "A Regional Pattern in the Architecture of the Chaco Culture of New Mexico and its Astronomical Implications"

**** AAS INVITED PANEL DISCUSSION: "Lick Observatory: The First Century"** Donald Osterbrock, moderator. Panelists: S. Vasilevskis, D. M. Popper, G. W. Preston, R. P. Kraft, J. S. Miller. Also, on tape: N. U. Mayall, G. E. Kron, G. H. Herbig, and O. J. Eggen. Time: 3:40 - 5:00 PM

NEWS NOTES

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 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 each -- double the amount formerly offered. 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. Send to Spencer Weart, Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY. 10017. Deadlines for receipt of applications are June 30 and December 31 of each year.

THE DUDLEY OBSERVATORY HERBERT C. POLLOCK AWARD: SUPPORT FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT IN THE HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY OR ASTROPHYSICS

The Pollock Award is provided to encourage and support innovative research in the history of astronomy or astrophysics, to be undertaken by a faculty member, research associate, or post-doctoral student associated with a college, university, non-profit research institution or observatory located in the US. The maximum award is \$10,000 within one calendar year. Preference is given to research that involves the Dudley collection of 15th - 18th Century astronomical texts, located on the campus of Union College, Schenectady, NY or the Dudley Observatory collection of 19th century source materials. Dudley awards in the amount of \$8,000 are also available. To apply, send (1) a self-contained account of the project including how the present application may contribute to historical knowledge, a detailed budget, and history of funding for present research; (2) biographical sketch and personal bibliography; (3) two references; (4) name of chairperson of parent organization. People named in (3) and (4) may be contacted for further information. THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS DECEMBER 15, 1987. For further information, or to apply, write to: Pollock Award Committee, Dudley Observatory, 69 Union Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC HISTORY ACTIVITIES

The A.S.P. has an especially full history program. Andrew Fraknoi reports that the following are both continuing and upcoming activities:

- 1) Fosters popular historical writing through Mercury magazine. Welcomes well-written popular articles for general audiences.
- 2) Maintains an ever-growing inventory of well-documented photographs of historical interest. The A.S.P. Archive includes photographs of astronomers

(1500 inventoried to date) and encourages everyone to donate clear prints of astronomical personalities, groups, events, etc., to the Archives. The A.S.P. presently distributes a 50-slide set of famous astronomers (with a detailed captions book) which was assembled by the A.S.P. History Committee.

- 3) Hold historical sessions at each A.S.P. meeting. The next meeting will be at Victoria in June 1988, and papers for a planned symposium "Extragalactic Distance Scale" will be entertained. Arthur Hoag is the symposium organizer.
 - 4) The A. S. P. is also planning a centennial meeting in 1989 in Berkeley, California with a larger than usual session on the history of astronomy and the early years of the A.S.P. The Executive Office is planning a number of activities, including reprinting of 12 significant papers from the PASP, the publication of a history of the A.S.P., which is being prepared by Katherine Bracher, and expanding photograph collection efforts. Suggestions are welcome!
- For further information, contact: History Committee, c/o Executive Officer, A.S.P., 1290 24th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122

RITTENHOUSE

(Journal of the American Scientific Instrument Enterprise)

This new journal (the first issue was in November 1986 and there have been five thus far) is edited by Deborah Jean Warner of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. It is intended to increase and diffuse knowledge about American scientific instruments, their origins, makers, users and their influence upon science and society. The journal is directed toward the interests of collectors, and a number of highly useful astronomical instrument papers have appeared. Subscriptions are \$20/year (\$25 foreign, with air delivery). Checks should be made payable to RITTENHOUSE and sent to either one of the co-publishers: David & Yola Coffeen, Tesseract, P. O. Box 151, Hastings-On-Hudson, NY 10706, or to Raymond V. Giordano, The Antiquarian Scientist, P. O. Box 367, Dracut, MA 01826.

JOHN HERSCHEL LETTERS

Preparations are now underway for the publication by Cambridge University Press of a volume tentatively titled Selected Correspondence of Sir John Herschel which will be edited by Michael J. Crowe. Persons knowing the locations of letters to or from John Herschel are requested to write Professor Crowe at: History and Philosophy of Science Program, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, 46556.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- S. Chandrasekhar, Truth and Beauty: Aesthetics and Motivations in Science (University of Chicago Press, 1987) - Forthcoming in December. Collected lectures and addresses on Eddington, Milne, K. Schwarzschild, and scientific motivation.
- D. S. Evans and J. Derral Mulholland, Big and Bright, A History of the MacDonald Observatory (Texas, 1986)
- Edward Grant, "Celestial Orbs in the Latin Middle Ages," Isis 78 (June 1987), 153 - 173.
- James A. Marshall, "An Atlas of American Indian Geometry," Ohio Archaeologist 37 #2 (Spring 1987), pp. 36 - 48.

D. Saward, Bernard Lovell, A Biography (Hale, 1984)

Helen Wright, James Lick's Monument, The Saga of Captain Richard Floyd and the Building of the Lick Observatory (Cambridge, 1987)

Donald K. Yeomans, Jrgen Rahe and Ruth S. Freitag, "The History of Comet Halley," J. Royal Astronomical Society Canada 80 (1986), pp. 62 - 86.

--The Following are in the March 1987 issue of The Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society 28:

Bernard Lovell, "The Emergence of Radio Astronomy in the U.K. after World War II," pp. 1 - 9.

Mari E. W. Williams, "Astronomy in London: 1860 - 1900," pp. 10 - 26.

Keith P. Herzog, "Ancient Stellar Anomalies," pp. 27 - 29.

Carole Stott and David W. Hughes, "The Amateur's Small Transit Instrument of the Nineteenth Century," pp. 30 - 42.

(publications in the obvious places, such as Journal for the History of Astronomy, S&T, Mercury, The Griffith Observer etc., not listed.)

The Center for History of Physics at the American Institute of Physics seeks applicants for the position of Post-doctoral Associate Historian. The person should hold a recent Ph.D. or a virtually complete dissertation in some area of the history of physical science. Appointment will be for one year, renewable up to three years. The historian will help conduct and administer the Center's programs in oral history interviewing of physical scientists, the preservation and cataloging of their documents, and the use of such historical materials for scholarly and educational purposes, with ample opportunity to pursue personal research interests in related areas. The AIP offers excellent salary, benefits, and support services. Employment is expected to begin in the latter half of 1988. Anyone qualifying for the position is urged to send a letter, vitae, and names of three references to Spencer Weart, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017.