

NEWSLETTER 22
HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION
AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

February 1992

-- Atlanta Meeting Report:

We had a very busy and productive meeting at Atlanta. Robert Smith's invited AAS/HAD lecture on big science was part of the opening ceremonies, and attracted and held over 800 people; between 40 and 80 people attended the two excellent HAD paper sessions.

The HAD Business meeting, headed by Steve Dick in John Lankford's absence, was very important. The following matters were dealt with, and agreed upon by the 12 members attending:

1. The report of the Secretary/Treasurer was read and approved. It was clear that at the present dues rate, in light of increased costs and increased activities, the HAD coffers are being slowly but steadily depleted. A summary and the yearly budget analysis will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.
2. The proposed changes in the dues structure, and in the management of both dues and membership, were discussed and approved by those in attendance. The changes include:
 - o Dues for full members (members of the AAS) will be doubled, from \$6.00 for three years, to \$12.00 for three years (\$4.00/year).
 - o Dues for Affiliate members (members of HAD who are not members of the AAS) will also be doubled, from \$15.00 for three years to \$30.00 for three years (\$10.00/year). An amendment from the floor (Tom Williams) was also approved: The dues will be levied on an tri-annual basis, [whether it be managed by the HAD {tri-annual} or the AAS {annual}], and will be calculated by year only, regardless of the time of year the dues **were** sent in.

Note 1: For those canny members of the HAD who paid up far into the future (a few are paid through the 1990s!) you will not be billed again until the end of the year in which your dues are up. In accordance with the above amendment, no allowance (+ or -) will be made for the fraction of the year in which your dues were paid.

Note 2: The Executive Committee of the HAD has decided that this new dues structure will be levied on all members presently in arrears, and who have not paid their dues (at the old rate) within one month of the appearance of this Newsletter. Also, payment at the old rate only applies to the rest of 1991, since all dues must be rectified to the yearly schedule set by the AAS.

To make matters simple for anyone who still has to pay for 1991 or 1992, the remittance will be:

Full:

- (1) old rate: \$2.00 per year regardless of date paid.
- (2) new rate: \$4.00 per year, regardless of date paid.

Affiliate:

- (1) old rate: \$5.00 per year regardless of date paid.
- (2) new rate: \$10.00 per year, regardless of date paid.

Examples:

(a) you are a full member who has paid only through June 1991 (look at your mailing label). If you have not paid since, and pay within one month of the appearance of this Newsletter, you must pay \$2.00 (for 1992 only). If you dawdle, and delay after the month grace period, you will have to pay \$4.00.

(b) you are a full member who has paid only through April 1990 (look at your mailing label). If you have not paid since, and pay within one month of the appearance of this Newsletter, you must pay \$4.00 (for 1991 and 1992). If you dawdle, and delay after the month grace period, you will have to pay \$8.00.

For Affiliates, case (a) would require \$5.00/\$10.00 respectively; while (b) would require \$10.00/\$20.00 remittances.

If you are still unsure about what to pay, call me (David DeVorkin) at (202) 357-2828. Have your mailing label handy when you do call, please.

o Starting in January 1993, the Executive Office of the AAS will be taking over the duties of collecting dues and maintaining membership listings. They will bill all members on a yearly basis. However, the AAS will not charge the Division for this service until January 1995, giving us a two-year grace period. We hope to absorb this charge, given the new dues structure.

3. The HAD membership discussed the question of supporting the continuance of the yearly observatory reports in the BAAS. Recognizing that these reports have always been voluntary, the HAD agreed to go on record as follows:

Agreed:

1. That the membership of the Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society supports the continuance of the publication of the "Reports of Observatories" in the Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society.

2. That membership of the Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society directs its chairman to communicate to the AAS its feelings on the matter.

4. The Obituary Committee report was read by Steve Dick and approved by the membership. The members were enthusiastic over the progress of this HAD initiative; the first set of obituaries appeared in the most recent edition of the BAAS.

5. Steve Dick announced that a new Nominating Committee will be formed for elections later in 1992. The By-Laws require that the past chair of the HAD (Kate Bracher) act as chair of the committee. Two additional members are being sought out to complete the committee. The Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of HAD Officer candidates which will be submitted to the HAD in the fall.
6. Steve Dick discussed plans of IAU Commission 41 on the History of Astronomy for a program "The Preservation and Conservation of Astronomical Archives and Instruments." They passed a resolution at the August General Assembly meeting in Argentina, in conjunction with Commission 5, which they communicated to the Secretariat as follows:

Resolved:

..."that the Union supports an initiative taken by Commissions 41 and 5 (1) to establish a register of the whereabouts of all extant astronomical archives of historical interest; (2) to impress on observatories and other institutions their responsibility for the preservation, conservation, and where possible cataloguing of such archives; (3) to search for an institution that will allocate space and funds for maintaining such a register and publishing it."

A working group was established that includes S. Debarbat; S. Dick, E. Proverbio, B. Hauck, and D. Dewhirst.

-- Membership Directory Problem

The 1992 AAS Membership Directory does not list Affiliate members of the AAS. This very unfortunate error was caught soon after the publication of the directory. According to the AAS, the AIP failed to heed both oral and written instructions to append Affiliate listings to the main listing properly. Since this did not happen, the AIP computer somehow decided that all Affiliates (for other divisions as well as ours) had to be dropped because their memberships had "expired." This error was not caught by the AIP or by the AAS proofreaders. However, it is a manifestation of the general confusion caused by separate listings, which will be rectified when the AAS takes over the production of the membership directory next year, and when it brings all membership activities in-house.

The AAS will reimburse the HAD directly for this error. This was approved by the HAD Executive Committee.

The Historical Astronomy Division and the Division on Dynamical Astronomy of the American Astronomical Society will hold a joint meeting in Chicago at the Adler Planetarium, 3 - 6 June 1992. Wednesday, 3 June, will be devoted to DDA papers. Thursday and Friday, 4 - 5 June will include papers of both divisions, with an emphasis on the history of dynamical astronomy. Saturday, 6 June, will be devoted to HAD papers. **Although papers dealing with the history of dynamical astronomy will be especially welcome, papers on all aspects of history are also encouraged.** Participants are invited to attend all sessions, regardless of division membership. A special invited lecture by Noel Swerdlow, on Newton's System of the World, will be held during the day on Thursday, with additional invited talks by Steve Dick and LeRoy Doggett. A banquet will be held Friday evening at the Adler, preceded by the DDA's annual Brouwer Award Lecture, to be delivered this year by Martin Schwarzschild.

The Adler is a wonderful site for this joint meeting. There will be continuing exhibits on early navigation, on the Mariner's astrolabe, and on Italian Instrument Making. Permanent displays of Adler's rich collection of astrolabes will be available for inspection, and if attending members are interested, special viewings of the reserve collection not on exhibit will be arranged for small informal groups. Liba Taub and Kate Desulis of the Adler staff will be happy to arrange for these sessions, upon request. In addition to the regular displays, the Adler will make its special History of Astronomy Research Center open for inspection and use during the meetings. This is a library containing some 1500 rare books that is separate from the Adler's regular astronomical library. Finally, the Adler's continuing planetarium programming during the meetings is a celebration of the Columbian quincentennial.

Submission of abstracts and registration for the Adler Meeting will be handled in the following manner:

Abstracts:

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a modified AAS Abstract form for the Adler meeting. Fill it out in a manner identical to that for any AAS meeting. This includes the standard abstract fee for publication in the BAAS. Make out your check to the AIP as directed on the abstract form. Send the completed abstract form and the check to David H. DeVorkin, Room 3530, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS TO DEVORKIN IS: April 20, 1992.

THIS CONSTITUTES THE FIRST AND FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE ADLER MEETING.

Hotel Registration:

The Adler and the LOC have arranged for a set of 60 rooms at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, which they say is a 5 minute walk from the Adler. The Hilton has agreed to reasonable (for Chicago) rates for the duration of the meeting (check-in Tuesday afternoon, June 2, check-out Sunday morning June 7). **These rates hold for the specified date range. Check in and check out may be any days within this range.** All arrangements must be made directly with the Hilton, by phone or using the materials found in this Newsletter. If you wish to double up, make your arrangements personally and be explicit on the form. Neither the HAD secretary, nor the Hilton, nor the Adler will match roommates.

Note: These rates and Rooms hold only until May 12.

Meeting Registration:

The HAD Committee has placed the registration fee for the Adler meeting at \$30.00, to agree with what the DDA has found is required to cover all normal costs. Please use the following registration form for the Adler meeting:

Note: this registration fee does not include the banquet. The next Newsletter will have information about the banquet.

NEWS

-- American Institute of Physics Grants-In-Aid

The Center for History of Physics of the AIP awards grants-in-aid (of up to \$2,000 each) to reimburse direct expenses incurred for research in the history of modern physics and allied sciences (such as astronomy) and their social interactions. 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 tape-record oral history interviews with a copy deposited at the Library. Applicants should either show a record of publication in the history of science, or be working toward a graduate degree in the field, in which case they should include a letter of reference from their thesis adviser, along with (in any case) a vita and a letter of no more than two pages describing the research project and budget. These should be sent to Spencer R. Weart, Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45 Street New York NY 10017. Deadlines are 30 June and 31 December of each year.

-- The Papers of Jan Oort

Recently received from the Leiden Observatory is a pre-print of a major finding aid, prepared by J. K. Katgert-Merkelij, to the papers of Jan Oort held by the Leiden University Library.

"The Manuscripts and Correspondence of Jan Hendrick Oort" includes 157 pages of descriptive listings and cross-referenced name and subject indexes. Oort's papers are divided into research and teaching, scientific and personal correspondence, official correspondence dealing with Leiden Observatory and Leiden University, astronomy in the Netherlands, and then broader aspects of political and academic life in the Netherlands, in Europe, and in the international scene in astronomy (the IAU, ICSU, etc.). According to the inventory introduction, the larger portion of the papers is in Dutch. Generally, correspondence with English, French and German speaking colleagues is in their respective languages. More recent correspondence is mainly in English. Although there is no overall indication of the physical size of the collection (in linear measure), the analytic contents listing demonstrates that it is a major archive. The date range is roughly 1919 to 1975. Access is by request to the Keeper of Western Manuscripts of Leiden University Library, Witte Singel 27, Leiden. The finding aid will eventually be published by the library. Historians with immediate interests should contact Professor W. B. Burton, Professor of Astronomy, Sterrewacht Leiden, P.O. Box 9513, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands.

A paper, "The Kenya Expeditions of Leiden Observatory" also by J. K. Katgert-Merkelij, has been published in the Journal for the History of Astronomy for November 1991. It demonstrates the richness of the Leiden archival collections. It should be noted as well that archival materials available in Leiden are also very important for earlier periods; some predate the founding of the observatory in 1633.

-- Astronomical Bibliography - Ruth Freitag (separate in folder)

Ruth again 'apologizes' for the excessive length of the bibliography, but lays blame quite properly on the excessive industry of those who write history! For the record, she wants to remind HAD members that, by mutual agreement, she does not list items appearing in obvious places, like:

1. John Carleson's Archaeoastronomy;
2. Astronomy;
3. Istoriko-astronomischeskie issiodovaniia;
4. Journal for the history of astronomy, and its supplement Archaeoastronomy.
5. Sky & Telescope

Ruth reports that a celebration and conference is to be held in Cologne in honor of the 400th anniversary of the birth of Father Johann Adam Schall von Bell, a Jesuit astronomer/missionary to the court of China. The dates are May 4-8. For further information, contact: Frau Dr. Zenson-Grahner, Deutsche-China-Gesellschaft e.V., Arnulfstrasse 3-5, 5000 Köln 41, Germany (telephone: 0221-415791).

REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE JOINT DDA/HAD MEETING
ADLER PLANETARIUM 3 - 6 JUNE 1992

Name and affiliation
(as you would like it to appear on your badge):

name: _____

affiliation: _____

address: _____

telephone: (____) _____

check all that apply:

registration fee of \$30.00 enclosed, payable to the HAD.

Abstract enclosed.

Abstract fee enclosed, payable to AIP.

 I have registered separately for the Hilton Hotel

I will be making other accommodations while in Chicago.

 I intend to attend the HAD/DDA banquet.

I expect to arrive on _____ June, and depart _____ June, 1992

return to: David H. DeVorkin, Rm 3530, National Air and Space
Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560.