

NEWSLETTER 23  
HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION  
AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

May 1992

**-- Joint HAD/DDA Meeting, Adler Planetarium, June 3-5, 1992**

The Historical Astronomy Division and the Division on Dynamical Astronomy of the American Astronomical Society are still speaking to each other, as they plan their joint meeting in Chicago at the Adler Planetarium, 3-5 June 1992. So far, so good, for its bound to be a very strong meeting, from both sides.

We expect about two dozen HAD members along with about three dozen from the DDA for the three-day meeting. The roster of papers is excellent, in fact, it is the strongest we have had in recent times. We have canceled the Saturday session for lack of papers, however. Therefore, Thursday and most of Friday will be devoted mainly to HAD papers, with offerings in early and modern history, the history of dynamical astronomy, and archaeoastronomy.

The special invited lecture by Noel Swerdlow, on Newton's System of the World, will be held on Thursday morning, with additional invited talks that afternoon by Steve Dick and LeRoy Doggett. There will also be informal invited commentary by Mr. and Mrs. Rod Webster on the origins and development of the incomparable Adler collection of astrolabes. 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. Along with the presentation of the Brouwer Award to Dr. Schwarzschild, events at the Banquet will include an address by Dr. Paul Knappenberger, President of the Adler Planetarium.

As we noted in the last newsletter, 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 the Adler's rich collection of astrolabes will be available for inspection, and 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.

HAD members who might still wish to register are welcome to do so. The registration fee is \$30.00, payable to the HAD. The Friday evening banquet is \$40.00, also payable to the HAD. But get your reservations in immediately.

#### **-- 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.

#### **-- Phoenix, January 1993**

This is a first call for the 1993 Winter AAS meetings, to be held in Phoenix in January. The HAD has asked for, and received, two paper sessions for Monday, January 4. A regular business meeting will be held that day as well, when new officers will be installed.

Phoenix places us in or near a number of very exciting areas of great historical and archaeoastronomical interest. There are also a number of HAD members residing in and around Phoenix, and so I hope that some HAD-spirited members in the area might put their heads together to plan for some special activities. A Sunday special session based upon some coherent local themes, or even a local tour, might be in order.

#### **-- Antique Telescope Society Meeting**

The inaugural meeting of the Antique Telescope Society, which will feature an antique telescope show, will be held 16-18 October 1992 at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington D. C. The program is open to all, and will include an organizational meeting for members and officers. Deborah Jean Warner, Curator of Physical Sciences at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, will provide the keynote address. For further information, contact Walt Breyer, 30 Green Valley Road, Wallingford, PA 19086.

#### **-- Smithsonian Videohistory Program Catalogue**

An original collection of videotape interviews conducted by Smithsonian curators and historians is now open for use. The collection was produced between 1986 and 1991 with funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Eighteen Institution historians produced 22 separate projects--for over 200 hours of tape--that cover a wide range of topics in American science and technology, primarily since the beginning of WWII. Topic areas fall within aeronautics and space exploration, classical observing techniques in astronomy, contemporary astronomical observing techniques (the origins and development of the MMT, for instance), X-ray and UV space astronomy, contemporary cosmology, computer development, medical technology, robotics, the Manhattan Project, and many others. Tapes, transcripts, and finding aids are available for researchers at the Smithsonian Institution Archives. Copies are available for a fee. For more information, contact the Smithsonian Institution Archives, 2135 Arts and Industries Building, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560, (202) 357-1420.

#### -- The Dues

Have a look at your mailing label, please. If the date at the top of the label is 1991 or earlier, you will be dropped from the list by the end of the year. Have a look in the last Newsletter for directions on how to reconcile your dues (confusing as the situation seems to be, many people have renewed correctly).