

NEWSLETTER 24
HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

THE ADLER MEETING (thoughts by Chairman Lankford)

The June 1992 joint HAD/DDA meeting at the Adler was probably the most exciting HAD gathering since its founding. We were able to listen to a series of invited and contributed papers and engage in informal discussions, unconstrained by the pressures of the larger AAS meeting. Presentations ranged from aspects of archaeoastronomy through developments in early twentieth century computer technology. Members had ample opportunity to examine the rich collections of the Adler. We are all very grateful to the Adler staff for making the meeting such a rewarding experience, especially to Dr. Paul Knappenberger, President, The Adler Planetarium, who let it all happen, to Roderick and Marjorie Webster, whose commentary made the collections sparkle, to Liba Taub, whose comprehension of the Adler's legacy helped us better appreciate the challenges of curatorship, and to Elaine Peterson, who deserves special recognition for her efficient professionalism and tasteful handling of all the details of the meeting. Appreciation is also due Peter Vandervoort of the University of Chicago, who kept everybody informed and rolling along. In addition to those mentioned, thanks as well to those in the DDA and HAD who labored behind the scenes to bring off the event. We all look forward to our next independent meeting at the Huntington Library in June 1993.

PHOENIX IS RISING!!

The Historical Astronomy Division plans to meet at Phoenix with the AAS. Presently the HAD council, with the help of LeRoy Doggett, Von Del Chamberlain and others, is organizing a very special one-day session for Sunday, January 3, to address critical problems in ethnoastronomy and archaeoastronomy. This all-invited session will include review papers and commentary by a broad range of scholars working in these important areas who will assess the present states of their fields, and provide links between them and issues in the history of science. At present we are delighted to report that we have a great showing of interest from Anna Sofaer, Steve McClusky, Trudy Griffen-Pierce, and possibly Ray Williamson and Ed Krupp. LeRoy Doggett and Von Del Chamberlain are the ringleaders. Suggestions for presenters or format for the Sunday session are still welcome.

On Monday, January 4, the HAD will hold two regular contributed paper sessions in conjunction with the AAS, and will hold its annual business meeting. This meeting is especially important as a change in HAD officers takes place at that time. For further information contact David DeVorkin (202 - 357-2828); or, if you have not received a Preliminary Announcement from the AAS, call Sharon Savoy at the Executive Office (202 - 328-2010) IMMEDIATELY!!! This is especially important since the sylvan setting for the Phoenix confab is a bit pricy and people will want to double up. It will be worth it, however, as the Pointe Hilton at South Mountain is the site for the AAS meeting. It is reported by the AAS to be "one of the premiere [second usage, so this is no potatoe] resorts in the United States, covering 650 acres." ~~The right place to be for a few days in January.~~

It would be a great help for the planners if we have an indication of the number of people who expect to attend the Sunday and Monday paper sessions. Sign up below, and send your response to David DeVorkin NASM 3530 MRC 311 Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560. FAX: (202) 786-2262.

more on Phoenix.....

PHOENIX ABSTRACT DEADLINE (TO AAS OFFICE): October 23 1992

YES! I'M COMING TO PHOENIX

I will attend the January 3 special session and the regular January 4 session _____

I will attend only the January 3 session _____

I will attend only the January 4 session _____

I will give a contributed paper on January 4 _____

Name, etc:

send response to David DeVorkin NASM 3530 MRC 311 Smithsonian Institution,
Washington DC 20560. FAX: (202) 786-2262.

NOMINATION SLATE

The Nominating Committee (Committee: chair: Kate Bracher; members: Von Del Chamberlain and Jack Robinson) has prepared an excellent slate for new officers of the HAD. The HAD BY-LAWS state (Article III, Section 6) that "this slate is to be sent by the Secretary to each member of the Division at least three months prior to the annual meeting. During the next 30 days, additional candidates may be nominated by petition of at least 10% of the membership (25 people) ... The final ballot, containing the names of all duly nominated candidates, shall be sent to each member of the Division ... at least eight weeks prior to the annual business meeting."

Additional nominations will therefore be due by October 25, complete with paragraph statements. The official ballot will be sent at all HAD members in the first week of November, as soon as possible after the paper screening for the phabulous Phoenix phorum.

-- Vice-Chair: (we will vote for 1)

o J. McKim Malville

J. McKim Malville is professor of astrophysics at the University of Colorado. Until about 10 years ago his major research area was solar physics. Now he is involved ~~fully in archaeoastronomy, actively engaged in field studies~~ in India and the American Southwest. During the summer of 1992, in conjunction with archaeologists at Ft. Lewis College and Colorado State University, he organized the Colorado Field School in archaeoastronomy, working at Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde. He is co-author of Prehistoric Astronomy in the Southwest.

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o Woody Sullivan

Woody Sullivan is Professor of Astronomy and Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Washington. His historical interests include 20th century astronomy, especially the history of radio astronomy and cosmology. Sullivan is retiring chair of the ASP History Committee, and has served on the HAD Committee. He hosted a special HAD session when the AAS met in Seattle, and has been very active as an organizer of history of astronomy activities nationwide.

-- Committee (we will vote for 3)

o Ronald Brashear.

Ronald Brashear is Curator of Scientific manuscripts at the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Among the collections under his purview are those of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the papers of Edwin P. Hubble. Ron Brashear has studied astronomy and physics at the University of Louisville and the history of science at the Johns Hopkins University. He has recently acted as adviser to the Lowell archives, and is currently working on an exhibit on the history of astronomy which will open at the Huntington in May 1993. His other academic interests include the history of American astronomy in the 19th-20th centuries, especially early bolometric/infrared research, and the career of Walter S. Adams.

o Sara Schechner Genuth

Sara Schechner Genuth holds an M.Phil. in the history and philosophy of science from Cambridge and a PhD in the history of science from Harvard. She was recently Associate Curator of the History of Astronomy Collection at the Adler Planetarium, and is presently a member of the Science, Technology and Society Department at Sarah Lawrence College, from which she is on leave this year as an Associate Fellow of the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, working on a history of Comets, Popular Culture, and the Birth of Modern Cosmology (Berkeley, forthcoming). Her interests include scientific instruments, early modern astrophysics, colonial American science, cometography, and the interaction of high and low culture.

o Stephen McClusky

Stephen McClusky is an associate professor of history at West Virginia University; he has a PhD in the history of science from the University of Wisconsin. He serves on the international steering committee for the Oxford Conference on Archaeoastronomy and on the editorial board of Vistas in Astronomy. His forthcoming book on astronomies and cultures in the early Middle Ages draws insights from his earlier ethnoastronomical work on the astronomies of the Southwest. McClusky states that "~~I would like to see the HAD bridge the gap separating astronomers, historians of astronomy, and archaeoastronomers.~~"

more.....

o Thomas R. Williams

Tom Williams has been active as an amateur astronomer for over thirty years, and as an amateur historian for about ten years. Since his first HAD meeting in June, 1984, he has presented six papers at HAD meetings, and has been an invited speaker at several other history symposiums. He plans to retire this year to devote more time to a study of the history of observatories in the United States during the 19th Century, as well as his continuing study of the history of amateurs in astronomy. Tom is a member of the ASP History Committee.

NEWS OF FUTURE MEETINGS

HAD meeting, Huntington Library, Summer 1993 (Ron Brashear): The HAD meeting in the Summer of 1993 will take place at the Huntington Library, Art Galleries, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, on June 14-15 (Monday-Tuesday), right after the AAS meeting in Berkeley. The Huntington is located about one mile to the east of Caltech, on the Pasadena/San Marino border.

On June 13 (Sunday) there will be a tour of the Mount Wilson Observatory, which will be great fun, and informative to those who have wondered about the health of this famous astronomical site.

We hope to have two thematic sessions during the regular days of the conference. One will be on astronomy during the time of Copernicus (1993 will mark the 450th anniversary of Copernicus' death as well as the publication of De Revolutionibus), and the other session will highlight the history of astronomy in the western United States. The Library Exhibition Hall will contain an exhibit highlighting the Huntington's rare astronomical books and manuscripts, from a 13th century manuscript of Ptolemy's Almagest to Edwin Hubble's logbooks.

NOTICE REGARDING LODGING AND MEALS: The only lodging within walking distance is Caltech's Athenaeum. If you are a registered reader at the Huntington Library, you are allowed to stay at the Athenaeum during the dates of your readership. However, the meeting falls right after Caltech's commencement, so the Athenaeum may be booked. As a result, we are planning to reserve a block of rooms at the Pasadena Hilton (2.5 miles away) for conference attendees, and hope to have a shuttle between the Hilton and Huntington. There are also less expensive hotels in the Pasadena area (the Hilton will be \$85/night plus tax) but, if you are planning for the Hilton, please wait until you receive the meeting's preliminary announcement package (in a forthcoming issue of this Newsletter). During the meetings, lunches will be available at the Huntington's cafeteria, and we are hoping to arrange for a banquet at the Huntington on Tuesday evening.

Antique Telescope Society: Inaugural Convention, October 16, 17, 18 at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. Friday (October 16) evening activities will include registration and cocktail hour, followed by a keynote address by Deborah Jean Warner. Saturday events include an all-day exhibit and competitive judging, and an afternoon of papers. Saturday evening there will be an organization meeting of the society. Sunday activities include a walking tour of the USNO and sightseeing in Washington. For further information contact Bart Fried, The Antique Telescope Society, 514 Launfall Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462, (215-825-4758 eves or 215-278-0123 days); or Walt Breyer, 30 Green Valley Road, Wallingford, PA 19086.

History of Science Society: 27-30 December 1992 meeting, Washington DC, at the Capital Hilton. Local Arrangements Chairs: Marc Rothenberg (Smithsonian) and Kathryn Olesko

(Georgetown). Among the sessions of great interest to historians of astronomy will be: "The Practices of Early Astrophysics: New Perspectives" organized and chaired by Robert Smith, with papers by Alex Soojung-Kim Pang (Producing and Reproducing Images of the Solar Corona, 1860-1900), Barbara Becker (The Reception of Kirchhoff's Spectroscopic Methods in England: The Case of William Huggins), and David DeVorkin (Henry Norris Russell's Construction of Priorities in Astronomy). Formal commentary will be by Karl Hufbauer. Another session, organized and chaired by Steve Dick, will be "Scientific Reactions to UFOs: Papers on the 40th Anniversary of the UFO Wave over Washington, D.C. and the 25th anniversary of the Condon Report." Papers will be given by Michael Swords (Extraterrestrial Intelligence and the UFO Phenomenon in the Early Years of Air Force Project Blue Book), Steve Dick (Edward U. Condon, UFOs and the Many Cultures of Science), and David M. Jacobs (J. Allen Hynek and his UFO Dilemma). Commentator will be Robert Paul. And then there is a session, organized and chaired by John Lankford, on "Maverick Astronomers." Charles Peterson will talk on "The Education of a Deviant Scientist: Thomas Jefferson Jackson See;" David Strauss will be discussing "Fireflies Flashing in Unison: Percival Lowell and Edward Morse;" and Howard Plotkin will talk about "William H. Pickering in Jamaica: Studies on the Moon and Mars," with commentary by Barbara Becker. A session on John Herschel has been organized by Michael Crowe, with papers on aspects of his career by Larry Schaaf, Marvin Bolt, and Vladimir Jankovic, with commentary by Reese Jenkins. There will also be a Works in Progress on 20th Century Physics and Astronomy, chaired by Spencer Weart, with talks on Einstein, the National Bureau of Standards, the Einstein/Bohr debate, the Twin-Paradox Controversy, Pasqual Jordan, Lise Meitner, and Edwin Powell Hubble as a Rhodes scholar (the last given by Gale Christianson). Scattered throughout the HSS sessions are papers on Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Big Science, Fraunhofer, "Exobiology as Cold War Science," Merle Tuve. It will be a great meeting.

A PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING AID TO HISTORIANS OF ASTRONOMY IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION - Robert McCutcheon

HAD members who have been able to read the last two issues of the AAS Newsletter will be aware that the AAS has organized a support program for astronomy in the former Soviet Union (FSU). The AAS' FSU Astronomy Committee has been in existence since last January and has already collected over \$40,000 in donations. The committee is working together with an advisory committee in the FSU that has organized a proposal competition on the basis of which the AAS is making \$100 grants to individual FSU astronomers. In addition, the AAS FSU Astronomy Committee is providing journal subscriptions to leading FSU astronomy institutions.

Although \$100 may seem to be a very small sum, it goes a long way in the FSU. The current salary for an observatory director is less than \$50/month, and the salary for a junior astronomer is much lower. Thus the AAS grants are the equivalent of several months of salary.

If the situation for FSU astronomers is difficult, the situation for historians of astronomy is even worse. The FSU's annual history of astronomy compendium, Istoriko-astronomicheskie issledovaniia may not be able to continue publication, and the future of ~~the Institute for the History of Science and Technology~~ is in some doubt.

This leads me to suggest that the HAD membership should consider collecting donations to aid FSU historians of astronomy. Although HAD might not be able to collect \$40,000, a more modest sum in the range of \$1000 to \$2000 should be within reach. This money could be channeled to the FSU through mechanisms similar to those used by the AAS FSU Astronomy Committee. An advisory committee could be established in the FSU that would consider proposals from individual historians of astronomy, and HAD could

then provide 10-20 \$100 grants. HAD could also aid with subscriptions to the Journal for the History of Astronomy, Isis, and other historical journals.

I put this suggestion forward for discussion and will be interested in any reactions. If there is sufficient interest and support, we could raise this issue formally at the HAD business meeting in Phoenix next January. Contact me at Computer Sciences Corporation, 1100 West Street, Laurel, MD 20707 (301) 497-2743, FAX: (301) 498-8260; e-mail: bobm@cexsels.gsfc.nasa.gov

AAS/HAD OBITUARY BOARD (Steve Dick)

Steve Dick's Board (members include R. Doel, S. Maran, V. Trimble, and HAD officers Lankford and DeVorkin) has begun the second cycle of inquiries which will lead to the next issue of obituaries in the BAAS. He reports: "Unfortunately it has been a year of many deaths in the Society, and so our work has not been lessened in quantity or importance. Many good comments have been received about last year's obituaries, and I think both the astronomers and the historians involved now recognize the importance of putting these on record."

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

-- **Proposal for Summer Workshop (Marc Rothenberg):** The question has been raised whether historians of astronomy would be interested in participating in a summer workshop on the history of astronomy. For some years, historians, philosophers, and sociologists of biology have been holding such gatherings every other summer and have found them to be very stimulating. The Graduate Program in the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Notre Dame has offered to host such a workshop in the summer of 1993. The enclosed questionnaire is designed to check on the level of interest in such a workshop. Your honest response would be appreciated. Please send the response to: Marc Rothenberg, MRC 429, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560. THE QUESTIONNAIRE IS AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER.

-- **American Institute of Physics Grants-In-Aid for History of Modern Physics and Allied Sciences (Astronomy, Geophysics, etc.)**

The Center for History of Physics of the AIP awards grants-in-aid (of up to \$2,000 each) that can be used only to reimburse direct expenses incurred for research in the history of modern physics and allied sciences (such as astronomy, geophysics and optics) 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 (from Fall 1993 in College Park, Maryland), 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 brief 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.

-- **Astronomical Bibliography (Ruth Freitag):** Ruth's gargantuan semi-annual bibliography appears in this issue.....