

**NEWSLETTER 25
HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION
AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
November 1992**

Papers for Phoenix

LeRoy Doggett, with the help of Von Del Chamberlain and others, has organized the HAD's Sunday [3 January] special session on critical problems in ethnoastronomy and archaeoastronomy. This all-invited session will include four extended research papers, and one special commentary, which will then be followed by a panel discussion bringing together a broad range of scholars who will assess the present states of their fields, and provide links between them and contemporary issues in archaeology and the history of science. The session will begin at noon, and last approximately until 5:00 PM.

The HAD will also hold two regular contributed paper sessions on Monday, with its annual business meeting at 1:00 PM that day, to usher in the new HAD officers and Executive Committee. From the titles below, both days promise to be exciting and provocative!

HAD I: "Special Issues in Archaeo and Ethno Astronomy"
12:00 noon till 5:00 p.m. Chair: LeRoy Doggett
Pueblo Room

30 minute papers:

Carol W. Ambruster (Villanova) "The Archaeoastronomy of Casa Rinconada: A Review and Some new Results"
Anna Sofaer (Solstice Project) "Symbolic Cosmological Expression in the Architecture, Road and Light Markings of the Ancient Chacoan Culture of New Mexico"
[break]
Von Del Chamberlain (Hansen) "Star Tracks: Star Patterns in American Southwest Rock Art"
Trudy Griffen-Pierce (U. Arizona) "Sky is My Father: The Navajo Relationship to the Heavens"
[break]

45 minute paper:

Steve McCluskey (UWVA) "Archaeoastronomy - Astronomies in Context"
[break]

Panel Discussion

HAD II: Contributed Papers Monday AM

Chair: Kate Bracher
Pueblo Room

12 minute papers (with 3 minutes for questions)

- George E. Webb (Tenn Tech U) "Boosterism and the Origins of Arizona Astronomy"
 Robert A. McCutcheon (CSC) "The 1922 Committee for the Relief of Russian Astronomers"
 Dorrit Hoffleit (Yale) "A Sequel to Schildt's Surmise of More than one PL relation"
 David DeVorkin (NASM/SI) "'Its a screwy program, but here are the V-2's and we should do something about them': Jesse Greenstein's encounter with doing Science with a Vengeance"
 Steve J. Dick (USNO) "The High Resolution Microwave Survey History Project"
 Virginia Trimble (U Md/U Cal Irvine) "Changes in Patterns of Citations to Papers by American Astronomers, 1982-1992"

HAD Business Session 1:00 PM

Pueblo Room

Tentative agenda:

- 1: Report of Secy/Treas.
- 2: A proposal for providing aid to historians of astronomy in the former Soviet Union - **Robert McCutcheon**
- 3: Report of Obituary Committee - **Steve Dick**
- 4: Upcoming meetings:
 - plans for Huntington June 1993
 - Washington DC in January 1994
 - Thoughts from the Floor
- 5: Results of Elections and installation of new officers and executive committee.

HAD III: Contributed Papers Monday PM

Chair: Steve Dick
Pueblo Room

12 minute papers (with 3 minutes for questions)

- P. B. Pitluga (Adler) "The Nazca Lines and Quadrangles: An Astronomical Model"
 D. Roussel-Dupré (LANL) "Archaeoastronomy in the Rio Grande Corridor-Not Just Horizon Calendars"

[more....]

[HAD III conbtinued...]

- Kevin Krisciunas (JAC) "The Accuracy of the Measurements in Ulugh Beg's star catalogue"
- Ron S. Brashear (Huntington Library) "A Brewing Storm: Hale, Gale, and Researcher Selection at the Mount Wilson Observatory"
- Don E. Osterbrock (UCO/Lick) "Science, Religion and Money; Perkins Observatory in the Great Boom and the Great Depression 1919-1936"
- Bradley E. Schaefer (NASA/GSFC) "The True Identities of Professor Moriarty and Colonel Moran"

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

-- 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.

-- Antique Telescope Society:

The Antique Telescope Society held its inaugural convention on the weekend of October 16-18 at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. Your HAD secretary was only able to attend the Saturday events, which included a fascinating all-day exhibit of historical instruments, with competitive judging, and an afternoon of papers, with about 40 people in attendance. The exhibit itself could not have been more interesting and exciting: exquisite James Short and John Browning reflectors, ancient Dollands (and Dollonds) -- one 4-inch model possibly in the United States since the 1820s (which would have made it the largest telescope in the Americas known at the time) --

telescopes by Clark, Brashear, Bardou, Zeiss, Pettididier, Gaertner, Fitz, Mogey, (among many others) stood in the shadow of the USNO's great 26-inch, right on the observing floor.

The afternoon talks were equally interesting. After a general introduction to 17th century telescopes by Eugene Rudd, we were treated to an unusual survey of the art of making and providing spider web strands for filar micrometers and other astronomical devices by Steve Turner. Clearly from the discussion afterward, the audience was deeply interested in such topics, which included a detailed survey of the history of the Mogey telescope making company by Peter Serrada, and a survey by John Briggs of the types of sites where antique American telescopes have been found by this enthusiastic band of highly motivated and well-informed hunter gatherers.

For further information on how to get involved, and to subscribe to their Journal of the Antique Telescope Society, 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.

-- University of Chicago Centennial

A symposium, titled "The Physical Sciences at the University of Chicago, from the Beginning to Fermi" will be held 1-2 December at the University of Chicago in commemoration of the centennial of the Physics Department there. Historians of science will team up with scientists to give a series of talks relating to the university's history within the context of international science. Don Osterbrock will be presenting "The Birth, Near-Death, and Resurrection of Astronomy at the University of Chicago, 1891-1942." A reception and dinner will be held at the Adler Planetarium, followed by a planetarium presentation on the history of astronomy. For further information contact the Office of Special Events at the University (312)-702-8370.

NOMINATION SLATE

This is the season to vote! and the HAD is no exception. We received no write-in candidates over the past month, so the Nominating Committee's slate stands. According to the By-laws, 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."

-- 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.

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 the history of cosmology. He has edited two books on the history of radio astronomy and is currently completing his magnum opus on this topic for Cambridge University Press. Sullivan is retiring chair of the ASP History Committee, and has served on the HAD Committee. He organized and hosted a special HAD symposium when the AAS met in Seattle, and has been very active as an organizer of history of astronomy activities nationwide.

-- Committee (vote for 2)

o Ronald Brashear: Ronald S. 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 McCluskey: Stephen McCluskey 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. McCluskey states that "I would like to see the HAD bridge the gap separating astronomers, historians of astronomy, and archaeoastronomers."

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.

HAD Ballot:

Vice-Chair: (Vote for 1)

_____ **J. McKim Malville**

_____ **Woody Sullivan**

Committee (vote for 2)

_____ **Ron Brashear**

_____ **Sara Genuth**

_____ **Steve McCluskey**

_____ **Tom Williams**

**Return ballot by November 25 to: David H. DeVorkin, Rm 3530
National Air and Space Museum
Department of Space History
Smithsonian Institution
Washington DC 20560**