



H·A·D NEWS

*The Newsletter of the Historical Astronomy Division
of the American Astronomical Society*

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HAD in San Antonio

Steve Dick (USNO)

Despite the U. S. Government shutdown, travel restrictions due to government budget restrictions, and record snowfalls on the East Coast, HAD held a successful series of sessions in San Antonio. There is no doubt that the absences (including the keynote speakers) were keenly felt, but thanks goes to those who did brave extraordinary circumstances to make it to the meeting. They were rewarded not only by stimulating papers, but also by temperatures in the 70s!

The highlight of the HAD sessions was the special session, organized by Woody Sullivan, on "Applied History of Astronomy," held on Sunday, January 14. Speakers included Roger Ceragioli (U. Houston) on the red Sirius problem, Dennis McCarthy (USNO) on the use of Earth orientation data since 1600; David Dunham (JHU-APL, USNO, Yale) on solar diameter measurements during solar eclipses, Ken Brecher (Boston U.) on the archaeoastronomy of supernova explosions, Bradley Schaefer (Yale) on ancient supernovae and the Hubble constant, and Samuel Goldstein (U. Va.) on Louis XIV's astronomy. Although it was pointed out that already in the 19th century Simon Newcomb had extensively practiced "historical astronomy" by using astronomical records from King Louis' era and before, it was also repeatedly stressed how much remains to be done in this field, and that it might be a fertile source for graduate student projects!

San Antonio Report is continued on page 4.

Message from the Chair

Woody Sullivan (Univ. of Washington)

As detailed elsewhere, the death of our friend and colleague LeRoy Doggett has deeply affected all who knew him. He was a major force in making HAD a successful enterprise and, more importantly, he made life more civilized and caring through his thoughtful and kind interactions with all around him.

Many thanks are due to Steve Dick and David DeVorkin, who have agreed jointly to assume the post of Secretary-Treasurer pro tem until the elections this autumn. In particular, Steve is responsible for this edition of the Newsletter, and David is already delving into the books. If any HAD member feels that she or he would be willing to take on this important job starting next year, please notify me.

Chair Message is continued on page 3.

In Memoriam

LeRoy Doggett, Head of the Nautical Almanac Office at the U.S. Naval Observatory, and current Secretary - Treasurer of HAD, died April 16th of cancer. His death leaves a great gap in the astronomical and historical communities he served so well. An obituary will be published in the next issue of HAD News.

The HAD Prize

Woody Sullivan, HAD Chair

One of the goals of my term as HAD Chair has been to institute a HAD Prize. Although this idea had been talked about for several years, it had never gotten off the ground. Through the efforts of the current officers and the approval of the membership at the business meeting in San Antonio, the goal is finally being achieved.

The HAD Prize will consist of an appropriate certificate containing a citation from the AAS Historical Astronomy Division. At the discretion of the Prize Committee, the Prize may be accompanied by an honorarium and/or travel expenses to a HAD meeting to give an invited lecture. The Prize shall be given no more often than biennially and shall not be given to any person more than once. Recipients of the Prize may be of any nationality and need not be members of HAD or of the AAS. The Prize shall be granted on the basis of either or both of the following criteria: (a) a book, Ph. D. dissertation, article, or any other form of publication that significantly illuminates the history of astronomy, and that has been published during the previous six years. (b) long-term efforts of any kind that have significantly influenced the field of the history of astronomy. "History of astronomy" is taken in its broadest sense, to include all historical studies of the astronomical research, observations, practices, and beliefs of all cultures, past and present. "History of astronomy" also includes the discipline per se, that is, the institutions and practices that make it possible to do historical research involving astronomy.

It is hoped that a Prize Fund can be established. This will depend on the generosity of an institution or private benefactor.

The specific rules are as follows:

Rules for the HAD Prize

I. General

1. The HAD Prize consists of an appropriate certificate containing a citation from the Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) of the American Astronomical Society (AAS).

2. At the discretion of the Prize Committee (Sec. III), the Prize may be accompanied by an honorarium and/or travel expenses to a HAD meeting in order to give an invited lecture.

3. The Prize shall be given no more often than biennially, on the schedule specified in Sec. IV.

4. The Prize shall not be given to any person more than once.

5. Recipients of the Prize may be of any nationality and need not be members of HAD or of the AAS.

6. Posthumous awards of the Prize shall not be made.

7. The Prize shall be administered in accordance with the Bylaws of the AAS and the policies of the AAS Council.

II. Criteria for the Prize

1. The Prize shall be granted on the basis of either or both of the following criteria: (a) a book, Ph. D. dissertation, article, or any other form of publication that significantly illuminates the history of astronomy, and that has been published during the previous six years; (b) long-term efforts of any kind that have significantly influenced the field of the history of astronomy.

2. In the above, "history of astronomy" is taken in its broadest sense, that is, to include all historical studies of the astronomical research, observations, practices, and beliefs of all cultures, past and present. "History of astronomy" also includes the discipline per se, that is, the institutions and practices that make it possible to do historical research involving astronomy.

III. The Prize Committee

1. The recipient of the Prize shall be chosen by the HAD Prize Committee, which consists of five persons: the immediate past HAD Chair (Chair of the Prize Committee), the present HAD Chair, the HAD Secretary/Treasurer (Secretary of the Prize Committee), and two at-large members proposed by the HAD Chair and approved by the HAD Committee.

2. The two at-large members shall serve staggered four-year terms beginning in alternate Januarys. At any given time no more than one of these persons may be a non-member of both the AAS and HAD. In choosing the at-large members, a balance shall be sought on the Committee between the various branches and styles of research in the history of astronomy.

3. Members of the Prize Committee are not eligible for the HAD Prize until four years after they leave the

Committee.

IV. Selection Procedure

1. In the first HAD Newsletter following the AAS meeting in January (of the calendar year now defined as "Year One"), a notice shall solicit nominations for the Prize. A nomination consists of a detailed letter of support and a complete curriculum vitae for the nominee. Nominations may be proposed by any Member or Affiliate Member of HAD. In the event that a nominee is being proposed primarily for a single publication, it is the responsibility of the proposer to arrange for copies of the publication to be supplied to the Committee.

2. Nominations will be accepted by the Secretary of the Prize Committee until 30 days before the Annual Business Meeting that occurs one year later (close of nominations is thus normally during December of Year One).

3. The Prize Committee's selection shall be guided by the nomination materials, further materials that they may solicit, and the desirability of balancing the awarding of Prizes over the years between different branches and styles of research or service in the history of astronomy. The Committee may also at any time make its own nominations for consideration.

4. The Committee shall select a recipient by majority vote.

5. The Committee may decide at any time not to award a Prize for the current cycle. If such a decision is made by 31 August of Year Two, a new call for nominations may be made in the next HAD Newsletter, with Year Two now becoming Year One of a new biennial cycle.

6. Nominees who do not win the Prize are automatically carried over as candidates for the next two Prize cycles, after which time a person must be re-nominated.

7. The Prize Committee shall make its announcement of the winner, if any, as well as the citation for the winner, no later than by 30 September of Year Two. The Committee shall also decide at this time whether the recipient shall be invited to give a lecture at the following HAD meeting (normally in January of Year Three), whether travel expenses for the recipient shall be provided, and the amount of any honorarium. These decisions will be guided by the procedures given in Sec. V.

8. In summary, the selection schedule is as follows: Feb., Yr. 1 — Prize Committee constituted. Through early Dec., Yr. 1 — nominations accepted. 31 Aug., Yr. 2 — possible decision to have no award and immediately re-open nominations to close in early Dec., Yr. 2, which now becomes Dec., Yr. 1. 30 Sep., Yr. 2 — an-

nouncement of Prize recipient. Jan., Yr. 3 —usual time for recipient to receive Award and give a talk at a HAD meeting. Feb., Yr. 3 —new Prize Committee constituted.

V. Prize Fund

1. If suitable funds can be obtained for this purpose, a permanent HAD Prize Fund shall be established and administered by the AAS. The HAD Committee shall determine what fraction of the Fund's income shall be used to maintain the Fund against inflation. The remaining income shall be available for the Prize and its associated expenses. If income from the Fund is insufficient or if no Fund exists, the HAD Committee may authorize that Prize expenses be obtained from the HAD general account.

2. The HAD Committee and Prize Committee shall make prudent and equitable decisions regarding the amounts to award in any given year for any honoraria and travel expenses.

VI. Amendments

1. The HAD Committee is empowered to change these rules by majority vote; such changes shall not apply to the current Prize cycle.

Call for HAD Prize Nominations

In accordance with section IV of the Rules, nominations for the first HAD Prize will be open until December 12th 1996. Please send nominations to Steven J. Dick, U.S. Naval Observatory, 3450 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20392-5420.

Chair Message continued from page 1

My thanks also go to Steve for filling in for me at the San Antonio meeting (see his report); I was greatly disappointed not to be able to attend, but I understand that, despite the machinations of the US Government and Mother Nature, enjoyable and profitable sessions took place. Our next one-day symposium will be at the January 1997 meeting in Toronto on the topic of "The History of Canadian Astronomy", broadly conceived to include anything involving Canada and astronomy in the past. If you have ideas for this season, please contact the organizer, Richard Jarrell (York University) at 416-736-5213 or rjarrell@yorku.ca.

San Antonio Report continued from p. 1

Aside from this special session, two contributed paper sessions included a wide range of presentations by Alex Gurshtein (Russian Academy of Sciences and Mesa State College), David Iadevaia (Pima College), Steve Dick (USNO), Jay Pasachoff (Williams College), Frank Edmondson (Indiana), Don Osterbrock (UCO/Lick/UCSC), and Laura Whitlock and John Allen (NASA GSFC). In a local note, Dick pointed out in his paper that the AAS meeting was being held within a couple of miles of Ft. Sam Houston, where an expedition led by Asaph Hall observed the 1882 transit of Venus.

At the Business meeting on January 15 several important items were discussed. Foremost among them was Woody Sullivan's proposal for a HAD Prize, similar in nature to those awarded by other AAS Divisions. After reading a summary of the proposal, it was unanimously approved. The activities of the AAS centennial committee and the HAD International Relations Committee were briefly summarized. Great appreciation was expressed to David DeVorkin, HAD Vice-chair, for his work on the latest round of AAS obituaries. These have now appeared annually in the *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society* for several years, and constitute an increasingly important source of information.

HAD will not formally meet at the summer meeting in Madison, but plans a special session in Toronto in January 1997 on the history of astronomy in Canada. In the meantime, it is once again time for the Nominating Committee to be formed to select candidates for HAD officers and committee, to be installed in Toronto.

Position Announcement Associate Historian, AIP

The AIP Center for History of Physics seeks an Associate Historian for a term of three years (conditional on satisfactory performance). A PhD is required, preferably in the history of science, plus experience in the history of physics or an allied field (astronomy, geophysics, etc.). About two-thirds of the working time is to be spent on (1) oral history interviewing of scientists, (2) conducting educational and informational projects addressing

the general public or students (such as exhibits and internet services), including fund-raising for such projects, and (3) providing general support as a professional historian to the work of the Center for History of Physics (visit archives, respond to inquiries, etc.). The remaining one-third of time should be spent on research and publication in related areas. Please send letter of application and vitae to: Spencer Weart, Director, Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740; you may send these by e-mail to sweart@aip.org. Selected candidates will be asked to provide letters of reference.

HAD on the Web

<http://www.aas.org/divisions/had/had.html>

Thanks to Debbie Kovalsky of the AAS Executive Office, HAD now has a home page on the World Wide Web! David DeVorkin has posted material on the early history of the AAS, and we'll add links to other home pages devoted to the history of astronomy.

By the end of the year we'll post parts of *HAD News*, including information on upcoming meetings. Our goal is to post the complete *HAD News*, including Ruth Freitag's bibliographies.

HAD Elections/Announcements

The HAD Nominating Committee (Steven Dick, Chair) will soon begin the process of nominating officers to take office January 1997. In addition to nominations for Vice Chair and HAD Committee, nominations will also be made for the position of Secretary - Treasurer.

In the interim, items for *HAD News* should be sent to Steven J. Dick, 3450 Massachusetts Ave., Northwest Washington, D.C. 20392-5420. E-mail dick@ariel.usno.navy.mil. The next *HAD News* will be issued by early summer, and will include an even larger bibliography.