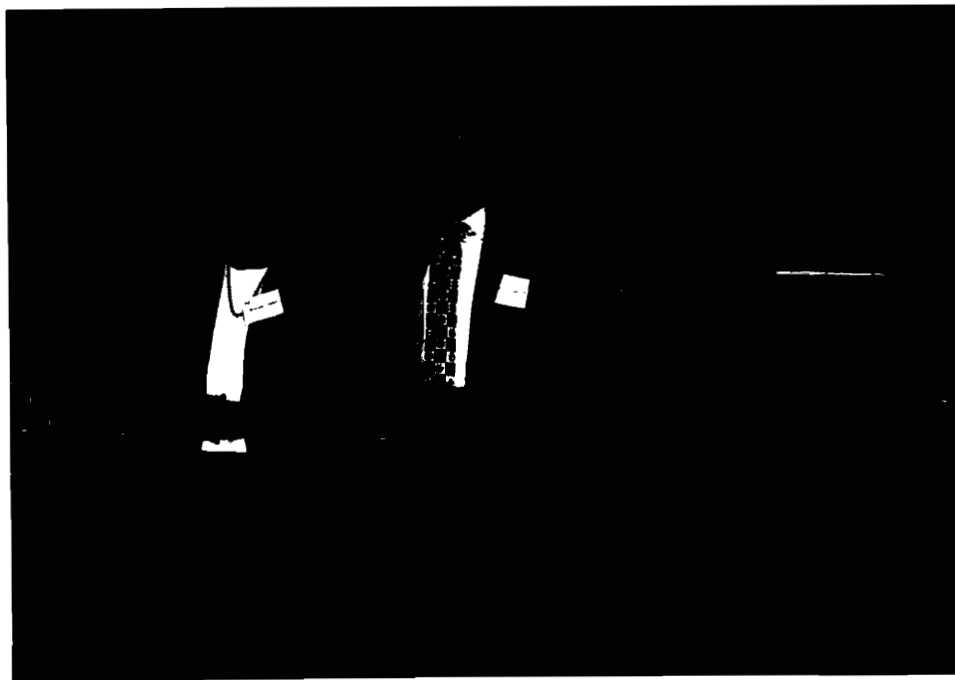


H. A. D. News

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

Number 51 February 2000



Corbin, Gingerich, and Welther:
Three Featured Speakers at the Atlanta HAD Meeting

Doggett Prize Awarded

By David DeVorkin

In the face of intense and worthy competition, the LeRoy Doggett Prize Committee (David DeVorkin, Thomas Hockey, Bruce Stephenson, Virginia Trimble, and Don Yeomans) tallied their results, and the unanimous choice as the second recipient of the Prize is Owen Gingerich [Harvard].

lectures to the AAS (on Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo) as well as the most prestigious lecture of the RAS (the George Darwin Lecture) on historical topics. Owen has kept history before the Society and before the public. More than anyone else today, he can be thought of as "Mr. History of Astronomy" among astronomers and historians alike.

Many of you also probably know that this year marks Owen's retirement at Harvard. This past Fall he finished giving his very popular "Astronomical Perspective" course for the last time; it was "the longest-running course under the same management" at Harvard these last few years, having started in 1963.

HAD Meets in Atlanta

Saturday, January 19, 2000 marked the first HAD meeting since the spectacular "AAS Centennial" Meeting of June, 1999. The winter meeting was held on the last day of the semi-annual AAS meeting.

The morning session featured a Doggett Prize lecture by Owen Gingerich. In what he described as a "trial run" for a more comprehensive lecture later in the year, Gingerich managed to join together several threads from his research career into a single comprehensive statement on the Copernican Revolution. The audience was graced by the presence of Mrs. Gingerich.

The Gingerich lecture was bracketed by speakers whose topics (or who themselves) were associated with the Prize winner. (See cover photo.) Brenda Corbin [USNO] presented a thoroughly researched list of bibliographic resources for the history of astronomy. Barbara

HAD Chair Virginia Trimble Presents the Doggett Prize to Owen Gingerich

Owen is not only one of the founders of the HAD, but more than anyone else has helped build up the image of professional history of astronomy as being something more than an afterthought in an astronomical career. He accomplished this through writing and lecturing, and, we all know, has given three plenary

Welther [CfA] (once a Gingerich student) spoke on the Henry Draper Catalogue. The session was chaired by Virginia Trimble [Maryland], who is also a Vice-President of the AAS.

members. (This University of Chicago Press publication premiered at the Atlanta AAS Meeting.) The special HAD session featured talks, about the content, circumstances, and significance of some of these papers, presented by those who wrote commentaries on the papers for the *Ap. J.* book.

Apt himself started the session by describing the process of selecting the *Ap. J.*/*A. J.* featured papers. He finds that most of the papers can be grouped into two categories: those that are well-cited because they are seminal in nature, and those that are well-cited because they provide a tool useful to many astronomers.

Robert Kraft [Lick] (standing in for Paul Hodge) discussed the Humason/Mayall/Sandage paper presenting the HMS Catalog. Neta Bahcall [Princeton] chose the Abell Catalog. Robert Kennicutt [Arizona] talked about the first paper published by Beatrice Tinsley. A particularly enjoyable aspect of the session was the personal reminiscences, about the paper authors--some contributed by members of the audience.

Contributed HAD papers included those of Kenneth Brecher [Boston University (and a founding member of the HAD)] on neutron stars, Brad Schaefer [Yale] on the Ptolemy-vs.-Hipparchus controversy, and Donald Osterbrock [Lick] on supernova research. (Osterbrock is presently at work on a book about Walter Baade.)

Virginia Trimble's poster paper, on a major astronomical "misconception," was situated prominently in the display session hall. In addition, one archeoastronomy paper was presented in a regular AAS oral session on instruments.

More than thirty HAD members participated in the 195th AAS meeting, in some capacity. This figure included two individuals who applied for membership on site!

Brenda Corbin Leads Off the 2000 HAD Sessions

The morning session was followed by lunch and the annual HAD Business Meeting. (See minutes on page 4.) More than ten HAD members attended the Business Meeting. The AAS was represented by Financial Administrator, Barbara Cannon.

The afternoon paper session was chaired by Helmut Apt [KPNO]. Apt, retiring editor of the *Astrophysical Journal*, also edited the special centennial issue of *Ap. J.* This bound volume reprints a series of great papers, which had appeared in that journal (or the *Astronomical Journal*) during the twentieth century, selected by present-day AAS

**Minutes of the HAD Business Meeting
[Draft]**

**Treasurer's Report for Fiscal
(Calendar) Year 1999 [Pre-audit]**

The meeting convened at 1:00 PM,
Saturday January 15, 2000, in
Atlanta, Georgia.

HAD Treasury (Savings Account)

1. Announcements from Chair Virginia Trimble. These included nominations for officers, the program for the next HAD meeting, and issues sent to the HAD by the AAS Executive Committee. (See Chair's Column, page 5.)
2. Brenda Corbin moved approval of the minutes from the last HAD Business Meeting. Barbara Welther seconded. Owen Gingerich proposed a friendly ammendment that the words "The meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois" be added to the minutes; this ammendment was accepted. The motion passed unanimously.
3. The Secretary/Treasurer shared membership statistics and a draft of the 1999 financial report. (See pages 4 and 6.)
4. Owen Gingerich moved that junior AAS members (who are HAD members) be held on the HAD membership roster for two years, commensurate with AAS policy. Barbara Welther seconded. The motion passed unanimously with the exception of one abstention.
5. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Submitted,

Thomas Hockey
Secretary

<i>Starting Balance</i> ¹ (January 1, 1999)	\$26.10
Income	
Dividends	\$0.91
Dues (paid directly to the Treasurer)	\$10.00
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$10.91</u>
Expenses	
<u>Ending Balance</u> (December 31, 1999)	<u>\$37.01</u>

HAD Treasury (Share Draft Account)

<i>Starting Balance</i> ¹ (January 1, 1999)	\$703.15
Income	
Dividends	\$7.34
Dues (paid directly to the Treasurer)	\$70.00
Transfer from AAS	\$1,000.00
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$1,077.34</u>
Expenses	
Printing, Postage, and Supplies	\$1,264.52
New Checks	\$11.05
Telephone	\$79.44
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$1,355.01</u>
<u>Ending Balance</u> (December 31, 1999)	<u>\$425.48</u>

¹per quarterly statement dated December 31,
1998

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Thomas Hockey 1/6/00
Treasurer

From the Chair

HAD-UP, Governance

During the spring and summer, the nominating committee (Chair, David DeVorkin) will be identifying at least two candidates for the post of Chair-elect (term 2001-2003, becomes Chair 2003-2005), four candidates for committee membership (terms 2001-2003), and, in due course, a person willing to take over the tasks of the Secretary-Treasurer (four year term, appointed). Volunteers and nominations are both welcome. Contact the committee chair (David.DeVorkin@nasm.si.edu).

HAD-UP, Science

Even as we go to press, there is plotting underway for the 7-11 January 2001 meeting of HAD with AAS in San Diego. The American Association of Physics Teachers will be meeting at the same time and place (with a few specific joint activities and many parallel ones).

The basic format, with plenary lectures, special and contributed oral sessions of 90 minutes, and lots of posters, will be the same as usual. Tradition says that HAD meets the preceding Sunday (7 January) with optional slop backward onto the Saturday and forward onto the Monday. We can (1) do anything we want as to sessions, talks, field trips, or whatever on Saturday and Sunday and (2) have two 90 minute special session on Monday (or later) with talks longer than the 12-minute AAS norm. It clearly makes sense to consider what might appeal to AAPT members, but this should not be our only driver (and we should not attempt to teach them how to teach!).

NEEDED: Suggestions for activities, plenaries, HAD invited talks and sessions, and so forth. A few of the ideas from the Atlanta business

meeting included (a) a visit to the historical astronomy library at San Diego State University (main meeting will be at Town & Country Hotel) and perhaps a session of talks there; (b) an invited lecture from Dava Sobel (author of *Galileo's Daughter*)--this might make a great evening, public talk, but she may not want to come at her own expense; (c) an invited lecture from Robert Westman of UCSD, author of a forthcoming book on Galileo and the Copernican Revolution; and (d) a sequence of talks focussing on major astronomical boners of the past and their fall-out (the giant and dwarf theory of stellar evolution, the conviction that space was transparent to light, the tidal interaction model for formation of the Solar System, and so forth).

Please provide your reactions, and your suggestions for other and better to the HAD Chair (vtrimble@uci.edu). Another item on which feedback is requested (because there is some disagreement among members) is the optimum length of a contributed talk. Think of it as a potential choice among the following alternatives (a) you give a 12-minute talk like those in other AAS sessions, (b) you give a 20-25 minute talk, with HAD sessions in parallel with each other, or (c) your presentation is scheduled as a poster to allow other people's talks to be longer.

DEADLINES: Proposals for plenary speakers, for special sessions in parallel with other AAS sessions (Monday-Thursday), and for specific HAD sessions and other activities must reach the Chairnoun at least two weeks before the Rochester meeting (that is by about 19 May), since the program for San Diego, numbers of rooms to be made available, and so forth will be set then. This does not apply to anything scheduled outside the hotel venue. Abstracts of contributed talks and posters will have a deadline some time in October.

HAD-BACK, Archiving

In connection with the changing of the guard at the *Astrophysical Journal* (from editors Abt to Kennicutt), the HAD has been asked for advice about the paper archives of original submitted manuscripts, referees' reports, editors' letters and so forth that have so far been save from the Chandrasekhar and Abt eras. It was the feeling of the small group at the business meeting (Saturday 15 January) that these should definitely be kept. The Abt archives are in filing cabinets in Tucson, where the weather is such that paper should last for some years. The location and condition of the Chandrasekhar *ApJ* archives are less certain. We have been told with roughly equal confidence by different people "Regenstein Library at Chicago", "Yerkes, where the attic is dry but the basements are definitely not," "Not Yerkes," and "Not Chicago." Could anyone who has firm information on this subject and/or suggestions on what should be done please contact the division chair, vtrimble@astro.umd.edu?

HAD-DOWN, Obituaries

We came perilously close to having only about six obits in the January meeting issue of the *BAAS*. Nineteen in fact appeared, with hearty thanks to some colleagues who understand the meaning of the word "now." A backlog of about 20 AAS members, who died prior to Fall 1999, remains (and, sadly, even now, our colleagues are not immortal). Authors are needed for Gareth Jones, Thomas Ogburn, Oscar Monig, and Henry Spreitzer. Please contact the Chair-elect (bwelther@cfa.harvard.edu) if you can help with one of them or if you are award of a recent death of a close colleague or friend and might be willing to contribute.

Virginia Trimble (California-Irvine)

From the Secretary

1999 ended with 270 names on the *HAD News* mailing list. This included 194 Regular Members of the HAD, 58 Division Affiliates, and 18 "foreign" members (Regular and Affiliate). (We also send out 43 complimentary copies.) All together, HAD membership represents 31 US states and eleven countries.

In 1999 there were four issues of *HAD News*, #47-50. This represents 116 pages of text or illustrations.

The Division thanks Kerry A. Kingham [USNO] for his generous donation to the LeRoy Doggett Prize Fund.

Thomas Hockey
(address on the cover)
Phone: 319-273-2065
FAX: 319-273-7124
I: hockey@uni.edu

P. S.: Remember that, in keeping with HAD tradition, we will not meet with the AAS in Rochester this summer.

News from the AIP

Joe Anderson (CHP)

The Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, is pleased to announce eight grants totaling \$73,000 to process and organize collections in physics and allied fields. The 1999 grants are supported jointly by the Richard Lounsbery Foundation and the Friends of the Center for History of Physics, and they have been awarded to the following archives: California Institute of Technology (to process the papers of Robert Leighton and of Robert Walker), Niels Bohr Archive, Copenhagen (Aage Bohr and Allan Mackintosh papers), Princeton University (survey and organize physics collections), Smithsonian Institution Archives (Riccardo

Giacconi papers), Stanford University (Burton Richter papers), University of Alaska (Sydney Chapman papers), University of California-Berkeley (Exploratorium records), and University of California-San Diego (Edward Allan Frieman papers).


The AIP History Center's Grant to Archives program is designed to increase the money available to organize and preserve original sources in our fields (physics, astronomy, geophysics, etc.) The maximum amount of individual grants is \$10,000, and applicants are required to provide matching funds. The deadline for grant applications is July 1st. For information check the Center's website at <http://www.aip.org/history/grntann.htm> or contact us at chp@aip.org, phone (301) 209-3165.

News from the ATS

HAD member John W. Briggs was elected president of the Antique Telescope Society at the organization's 1999 annual meeting held last year at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Canada. This year's meeting will be at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, the weekend of October 13-15, 2000. Additional information can be obtained from John at jwb@hale.yerkes.uchicago.edu, or by calling him at 505-437-6822. The Antique Telescope Society was founded in 1991, and the first annual meeting was at the United States Naval Observatory. Each year since the organization has gathered at a historically interesting astronomical facility for a weekend paper session and special tours.

HAD Members in the Spotlight

We note that Michael Molnar's book, *The Star of Bethlehem*, has received a lot of attention from the press—during and since the holiday season. (It is published by Rutgers University Press.) Also, Brad Schaefer was interviewed, at the Atlanta AAS Meeting, about the January 20-21 lunar eclipse.



Arthur Hoag (1921-1999)

Art Hoag was active in the history of astronomy, with his involvement in both the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and the HAD. Robert Millis [Lowell] shares this anecdote with us:

"Art Hoag's sense of humor was legendary; wherever he worked, his booming deep laugh often resonated through the hallways. And he could laugh at himself as easily as at anything else. Nate White tells the story of having placed a rubber facsimile of dog droppings in the hallway outside Art's office at Lowell. While the irrepressible White covertly observed, Hoag stepped out of his office, noticed this disgusting deposit, equipped himself with shovel and paper towel, and removed the offending material from the building. Shortly thereafter, White retrieved the item in question and returned it to Hoag's doorway. Later Art again emerged from his office and with a start spied what he had just removed. According to Nate, you could see the light go on and, as a broad smile spread across his face, Art roared with laughter."

[Millis's obituary for Hoag appears in the current *BAAS*.]

Astronomical Triumphs of the Millennium

[HAD Chair Virginia Trimble was asked, on only a few days notice, to provide a "top ten" list of astronomical discoveries of the past century and past millennium for press participants at the Chicago centennial meeting. She has since had some second thoughts about some of the following items, but please let us hear what your thoughts are on the subject. Here is the "millennium list."]

The general theme is undoubtedly the gradual demystification of astronomy through gradual increase in predictability of things, increase in resemblance between terrestrial and celestial events, and reduction to standard physics. This continues.

1. Celestial Objects Are

NOT Immutable

Tycho's supernova in 1572; his comet is not in the atmosphere.

NOT Perfect

There are mountains on the Moon (Galileo, 1610); sunspots (Harriot, 1610).

NOT Marching to a Different Drummer
Apples and the Moon (Newton, 1687).

NOT Fully Inventoried

Discovery of Uranus (Wm. Herschel, 1781).

NOT Made of Anything Funny

Spectroscopy (Bunsen & Kirchhof, 1858).

2. Eclipses and Some (Periodic) Comets are Predictable

Halley's (1695/1758); eclipses 1715.
Neptune was also predicted and discovered in 1844.

3. We Are not the Center of the

SOLAR SYSTEM (Copernicus, 1500)

GALAXY (Shapley, 1920)

UNIVERSE (Diggs--for the infinite Universe; Einstein, 1915--for the finite Universe)

4. There Exist Other

SUNS

GALAXIES (Hubble, 1924)

SOLAR SYSTEMS

(Mayor/Queloz/Marcy/Butler . . . 1995+)

5. The Universe is Expanding

(Hubble, 1929) and Went Through a Hot, Dense Phase 10-20 Gyr Ago

(Gamow, Alpher, & Herman, 1948; Ryle & Scheuer, 1955; Penzias & Wilson, 1965)

6. Light Moves at a Finite Speed

Eclipses of the moons of Jupiter (Roemer, 1675).

Aberration of starlight--also requires the Earth to move and stellar distances at least 100,000 times the solar distance (Bradley, 1729).

7. Continued Expansion of Our Ideas About the Size of the Universe

Sun at 1,079 Earth radii; stars 10X as far (Greeks to Kepler).

Parallax of Mars; Sun more than 50,000,000 miles away (Cassini/Flamsteed, 1672).

Stars at least 10,000-100,000 times further (Huygens/Gregory/Newton, 1650-1700).

Measurements of stellar parallaxes--
all stars at least 200,000 times the
solar distance
(Struve/Bessell/Henderson, 1838).

Distances to other galaxies from
100,000 to 1,000,000 parsecs (Hubble-
-using Shapely scale).

Extragalactic distance scale expands
by a factor of 5-10
(Baade/Sandage/others, 1952-99).

8. Celestial Objects are Born and Die, and Must Have Energy Sources

Conservation of energy--stars
contracting (Kelvin/Helmholtz/others,
1850s).

Giant-and-dwarf theory of stellar
evolution (Russell, 1910).

Getting it right: a) Stars run on
nuclear energy (Eddington to Bethe).
b) Star formation is a real, ongoing
process (Spitzer/Schwarzschild et.
al., 1940s).

Galaxy evolution can be calculated
(Tinsley, 1967).

Galaxy formation can be observed
(everybody, 1990s).

9. Leadership in Science Can Move from One Place to Another

Chinese astronomy, Mayan astronomy,
and Arabic astronomy all once out
ranked Europe. Gradual migration of
largest population of astronomers and
journals from Germany and England to
the USA. (And then to?)

10. Multiplication of Wavebands and Tools Beyond Our Wildest Dreams

And the Universe does not look the
same through every window.

An ABC of Web Pages

In a recent issue of *HAD News*, I
[TAH] solicited history-of-astronomy-
related URLs from Division members.
Thanks to all who responded. Here
are some of the results:

"A is for Amateurs"
<http://www.ngcic.org>
by *Harold Corwin*
History behind the NGC and IC
objects.

"B is for Bruce Medalists"
[http://www.phys-
astro.sonoma.edu/BruceMedalists](http://www.phys-astro.sonoma.edu/BruceMedalists)
by *Joe Tenn*
Biographies of the Astronomical
Society of the Pacific award winners.

"C is for Chamberlin Observatory"
[http://
www.du.edu/~rstencil/Chamberlin](http://www.du.edu/~rstencil/Chamberlin)
by *Bob Stencil*
History of the observatory and its
20-inch Clark refractor.

"D is for Detroit Observatory"
[http://www.DetroitObservatory.umich.e
du](http://www.DetroitObservatory.umich.edu)
by *Sandy Whitesell*
The page is in the process of being
expanded.

"E is for Education"
[http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhatch/
pages/03-Sci-Rev/SCI-REV-
Home/resource-ref-read/chief-
systems/index.htm](http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhatch/pages/03-Sci-Rev/SCI-REV-Home/resource-ref-read/chief-systems/index.htm)
by *Bob Hatch*
Teaching resources.

"F is for Firey Trigon"
<http://www.earth.uni.edu/conj.html>
by *Tom Hockey*
About the Spring 2000 conjunctions.

Upcoming Meetings

[from the *Electronic Newsletter for the History of Astronomy* by W. Dick]

February, Moscow, Russia
"Giordano Bruno and our Epoch"
Contact addresses: lmg@sai.msu.ru
(Dr. Lev M. Gindilis, SAI MSU);
boch@sai.msu.ru (EAAS)

March, Munich, Germany
"History of Geophysics and Space
Physics"
One day session during the Annual
Meeting of the German
Geophysical Society.
For further information contact: Dr.
Wilfried Schroeder, Hechelstrasse 8,
D-28777 Bremen-Roenebeck

March 3-5, Seattle, WA, USA
"Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the
Ancient and Late Antique World"
An interdisciplinary symposium.
Contacts: Dr. Scott Noegel,
Department of Near Eastern Languages
and Civilization, Box 353120,
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
98195
Office: 206-543-3606
Dept: 206-543-6033
Fax: 206-685-7936
<http://faculty.washington.edu/snoegel/stars.html>

March 31 - April 2, Cirencester,
Gloucestershire, England
"British Sundial Society Conference"
Place: Royal Agricultural College
Contacts: David Young (Secretary
BSS), 112, Whitehull Road, London E4
6DW
e-mail: davidsun@lineone.net

April 7-8, Hamburg, Germany
"The Popularization of Sciences"
An international Symposium on
occasion of the 40th anniversary
of the Institut fuer Geschichte
der Naturwissenschaften,
Mathematik und Technik; includes
presentations on history of
astronomy.
Information: Gudrun Wolfschmidt

e-mail: wolfschmidt@math.uni-hamburg.de

May 24-29, 2000, Moscow, Russia
"Astronomy of ancient civilizations"
Symposium associated to JENAM-2000
Contacts: Edward E. Kaurov,
Universitetskij prospect 13, 119899
Moscow
Fax: 7 095 9328844
e-mail: kaurov@sai.msu.ru
<http://www.iap.fr/eas/jenam2000/>
<http://www.sai.msu.ru/jenam/>
<http://www.inasan.rssi.ru/INASAN/JENAM/>

June 1-4, Bielefeld, Germany
"Annual Meeting of the Sundial Group
[Arbeitskreises Sonnenuhren] in
the German Chronometric Society
[Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer
Chronometrie]"
Lectures, visit to a museum, and
excursion to sundials between
Teutoburg, Forest, and Weser.
Contacts: Klaus Eichholz, Zum
Ruhrblick 5, D-44797 Bochum
Tel. (0234) 793500
Fax 793554
e-mail: Keichholz@t-online.de

August 7-19, Manchester, UK
"XXIVth General Assembly of the
International Astronomical
Union Commission 41 ("History
of Astronomy") Business
Meeting
Proposed Joint Discussion: "Applied
Historical Astronomy"
Proposed Invited Discourse: "The
History of Astronomy in the 20th
Century"
Details will be announced later.
Contacts: Dr Steven J. Dick, U.S.
Naval Observatory, 3450 Massachusetts
Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20392-5420
e-mail: dick@ariel.usno.navy.mil

October 13-15, Flagstaff, AZ, USA
"Meeting of the Antique Telescope
Society"
Contacts: John W. Briggs, Apache
Point Observatory, Sunspot, NM 88349,
Tel. 505-437-6822
Fax 505-434-5555
e-mail: jwb@hale.yerkes.uchicago.edu

Pulkovo: A Reflection

Thomas Hockey (UNI)

About once a year I take off my editor's hat for a few minutes and contribute something of my own to this newsletter. The subject of this column is my recent visit to the Pulkovo Observatory.

To readers of *HAD News*, "Pulkovo" nearly is synonymous with nineteenth-century continental astronomy. Most residents of nearby Saint Petersburg, though, recognized it mainly as the name of the regional airport not far from the observatory site. The Observatory itself caps a small, wooded hill just off the *Moskovskiy Prospekt* (an avenue of Saint Petersburg that becomes the major land link between the old and new Russian capitols). Telescopes remain on the hill, while technical support facilities now reside across the highway. The nature of the place is unobtrusive; only a gate and gatekeeper signal the presence of anything official from the road.

On an autumn Saturday afternoon, the observatory grounds were quiet. This was true even though more than a hundred astronomers and their families are in residence at Pulkovo. Occasionally, one would spot a baby buggy being pushed along the walkways, inside the nature-reserve-like grounds.

Great Refractor at Pulkovo

The Main Lobby Marks the "Russian Prime Meridian"

My host was Prof. Dr. Dmitry D. Polojentsev, whose long tenure as a Pulkovo astrometrist lead him naturally to become the most prominent historian of the institution. His good-but-rusty English indicates that he was one of relatively few Russians who traveled overseas during the Soviet era.

during the Great Patriotic War are inscribed on the wall of the building; it is not a short list.) At one time this building would have housed the transit instrument for Pulkovo's prime task: aiding navigation for Peter the Great's new Russian fleet. Indeed, the Russian "prime meridian" still is marked on the central-rotunda floor.

Polojentsev and the Author

Our first stop was the museum that is the main building of the Observatory. Pulkovo was in German hands during World War II. While its instruments were removed and hidden in the Hermitage, the buildings themselves were nearly leveled and have been reconstructed. (The names of the astronomers who were killed

The Original Maksutov Telescope

Surrounding the rotunda is the museum gallery. It is small, and the exhibits are traditional, but each artifact is a gem: eighteenth-century telescopes, nineteenth-century spectrographs, twentieth-century balloon-borne stratospheric instruments. On the columns behind the displays are oil portraits of

famous astronomers, the most prominently displayed being that of Wilhelm Struve.

(Along the way, Dmitry introduced me to his one-time observing assistant. Once an astronomer herself, she now cleans the museum to augment her laughable pension.)

A group of school children on a field trip joined us at the 26-inch-refractor. Beyond the traditional tour was Dmitry's own astrograph, just recently outfitted with a CCD camera. The prototype for the famous RATAN radio telescope sits on a bluff overlooking what were once the German/Russian front lines. Now, staff members use these fields for gardening--they cannot feed families on their salaries.

Along the paths between domes, Dmitry told me of his youth in Saint Petersburg, and how his family fled to eastern Russia to avoid the Nazis. He returned to Saint Petersburg to finish his education, and made his career at Pulkovo. The exception was that some years were spent establishing an observing station in Bolivia, an international project he relates with great pride. Today, Dmitry's two grown sons also are astronomers, though neither can find full-time employment in the field.

We returned to Dmitry's office, in a labyrinthine, drafty complex of the Stalin-era style. Even in 1999, a woman dutifully sits at a poorly heated desk, on Dmitry's floor, to see to it that this senior member of the Academy of Sciences properly signs out his office-door key!

The renowned Pulkovo library is a modest baroque room that shows no sign of the smoke damage inflicted by the 1997 fire. Everything has been well scrubbed. The volumes that were destroyed were housed in basement archives. Wise custodians previously had made sure that many of the rare works were stored elsewhere. Most of the astronomers I spoke with stuck to

the story that the fire had been set by mobsters, who had been unsuccessful in extorting the right to develop property administered by the Observatory.

The Pulkovo Library

Dmitry regrets that he was not able to attend the 4th History of Astronomy Workshop at Notre Dame [co-sponsored by HAD]! Ignoring the issue of trans-Atlantic travel, it seems remarkable that Pulkovo continues functioning at all. And with little sense of gloom pervading the air. The Observatory has been shorn of its better-located stations by the dissolution of the USSR. Devaluation of the ruble has made the equivalent of \$40-a-month a "good" wage. An 8088 computer is considered a research-caliber machine. Still, after surviving the Siege of Leningrad, there seems little left that can affect the spirits at Pulkovo.

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It's invoice time
from the AAS
again. How about
a donation to the
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