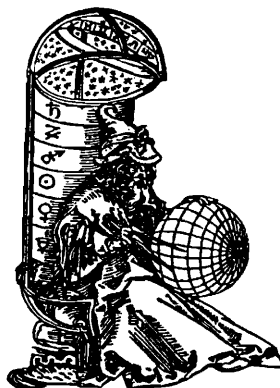


H. A. D. News



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

Number 52 May 2000



The View from Easter Island. HAD member William Liller has established that a number of these statues were astronomically aligned. This picture shows a *moai* with its recently restored eyes. Photo by Thomas Hockey, March 2000.

HAD to Meet in San Diego

By Virginia Trimble, Chair

HAD will meet Sunday, 7 January, 2001 at San Diego State University, where participants will have the opportunity to visit the Zinner collection of old and rare astronomy books and other artifacts as well as giving and/or listening to a program of invited and contributed talks (which will continue on Monday, 8 January at the regular AAS venue). Topics will include major errors made by astronomers of the past ("boners of the centuries") and other relevant subjects. The Abstract deadline is typically latter October.

From the Secretary

On behalf of the HAD Committee, we thank Lee Ann Willson and David Wilson (both of Iowa State University) for serving on this year's Audit Committee. The Audit took place at the Marshall County Historical Society, hosted by its Director, Gary Cameron. Thus, for one bright, shining moment, all (four) HAD members from Iowa were present in the same room!

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

News from the AIP Center for History of Physics

By Joe Anderson
Center for History of Physics
American Institute of Physics

Archives Grants Available for Physics, Astronomy and Geophysics Collections

The Center for History of Physics of the American Institute of Physics is pleased to announce its 2000 program of Grants to Archives. The grants are intended to make accessible records, papers, and other primary sources which document the history of modern physics and allied fields (such as astronomy, geophysics, and optics). Grants can be up to \$10,000 each and can be used only to cover direct expenses connected with preserving, inventorying, arranging, describing, or cataloging appropriate collections. Expenses may include acid-free storage materials and staff salary/benefits but not overhead.

The AIP History Center's mission is to help preserve and make known the history of modern physics and allied fields, and this grant program is intended to help support significant work to make original sources accessible to researchers. Preference will accordingly be given to medium size or larger projects for which the grant will be matched from other sources or by the parent

organization. To apply send a letter of no more than three pages describing the nature and research significance of the collection(s), plan of work, and budget, along with preliminary inventory (if available) and staff vitae by July 1, 2000 to: Joe Anderson, Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740; fax 301-209-0882; e-mail: Physics@aip.org.

The 2000 grants are funded by the Friends of the Center for History of Physics.

For grant guidelines or for more information on the Center and its programs, check our Web site at <http://www.aip.org/history/grntgde.htm>, or call 301-209-3165.

Deadline for receipt of applications is July 1, 2000. The program is offered annually as funds permit.

Correspondence

"The **Dudley Observatory** announces a \$5,000 award for the year 2000 in honor of Dr. Herbert Pollock, long-time trustee and Board President, in support of a project by Prof. Alice Walters, Department of History, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, MA. The project title is *Objectifying Nature: Culture, Commerce and Science in Britain and America, 1750-1850.*"

Ralph A. Alpher,
Distinguished Research
Professor of Physics,
Union College,
and Administrator, Dudley
Observatory,
Schenectady, NY 12308
(Email: alpherr@union.edu)

[http://www1.union.edu/
~alpherr](http://www1.union.edu/~alpherr)

Members in the News

From the Associate Press (by Sergei Shargorodsky): "Copies of one of the world's rarest and most valuable books have been disappearing in mysterious thefts that have perplexed police from the former Soviet Union to the United

States . . . At least seven of the 260 known copies of the 1543 edition of *De Revolutionibus* have disappeared, including one copy each from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and the Mittag-Leffler Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, according to **Owen Gingerich**, a professor at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass. Five copies remain missing."
[February, 2000]

An *HAD News* "Extra"

Brenda Corbin has kindly given us printouts of the transparencies used in her paper "Bibliographic Resources for the Historian of Astronomy" (HAD Meeting, January, 2000). Copies are attached to this issue.

Contributors: The deadline for submissions to issue #53 is July 7, 2000



Selected Recent Topics from HASTRO-L

(a LIST-SRV maintained by **Steve McCluskey**)

- Watches and Y2K/Leap Year
- Clairault's Formulae
- Observatorio de Montevideo
- Large Astronomical Instruments
- Michael Van Langren
- African and African-american Astronomers

New WWW Page

Donald Clayton has made available over 250 personal photographs from his career in nuclear astrophysics. They span a period from 1959 to 1999. These pictures may be viewed at

<http://photon.phys.clemson.edu/WWWpages/PhotoArchive/index.html>

The *HAD News* is supported in part by the Department of Earth Science, University of Northern Iowa.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES FOR THE HISTORIAN OF ASTRONOMY

BRENDA G. CORBIN, LIBRARIAN
U.S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY, WASHINGTON, DC

JANUARY 2000

bgc@sicon.usno.navy.mil
<http://www.usno.navy.mil/library>

I. RECENT PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY COMPILED BY RUTH FREITAG, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

<http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrosche/iaucomm41/biblio>

Issues currently available: July 1997, November 1997 and February 1998

Wolfgang Dick plans to make more issues available as time allows

All bibliographies originally published in the HAD Bulletin

II. ARIBIB

Astronomisches Rechen-Institut Heidelberg (ARI)
ARI Bibliographical Database for Astronomical References

<http://www.ari.uni-heidelberg.de/aribib>

Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts: Literature 1969 - present
Astronomischer Jahresbericht: Literature 1899 - 1968
Houzeau and Lancaster: Literature from early times - 1880
de LaLande: Literature covering 1781-1802

1999-1983: Reference Format
1982: Image Format
1981-1980: Index Format
1980-1954: Image Format
1953-1949: Index Format
1948-1916: Index Format
1915: Image Format
1914-1907: Index Format
1906-1899: Image Format
1898-1881: Very few tests only
1880 and earlier: Image format

Search by class and keyword

Example: 004 Newcomb (automatic Boolean AND)
(Class 004 is History of Astronomy)
005 Chandra
(Class 005 is Biography)
007 Neugebauer
(Class 007 is Obituaries)

III. Library of Congress Online Catalog

<http://catalog.loc.gov>

Browse by Call Number option is available

Click on Set Search limits if necessary

Example: set Range at 1880 - 1920

Keyword: QB36

QB36 is the classification number for biographies of astronomers

This will display a listing of all biographies of astronomers written between 1880 - 1920.

Partial classification listing including history of astronomy is at the end of the handout. Email Ellen Bouton (NRAO) for a copy of the full list for all of astronomy.

Example: set Range at 1900 - 1960.

Keyword: QB15

QB15 is the classification for general histories of astronomy

This will display a listing of general histories of astronomy written between 1900 - 1960.

IV. University of California Combined Libraries - Melvyl

<http://www.melvyl.ucop.edu>

Select MELVYL Catalog (books)

Truncate with the # symbol

Example: Search ancien# astronom# in the title block
Words are automatically searched as Boolean "and".

Results: 157 titles with some form of the word ancient and astronomy in the title.

V. Linda Hall Library - Leonardo

Large collection in Kansas City, MO devoted to Science and Technology

<http://opac.lhl.lib.mo.us>

Select LEONARDO

You can scan by call number, author, title, subject or keyword

Click on "call scan"

Example: QB15

to scan general histories of astronomy

VI. U.S. Naval Observatory Library - URANIA

<http://www.usno.navy.mil/library>

Click on "USNO Online Catalog (URANIA)"

Browse by call number for a specific date range

Example: In the "Notes" field, type QB 36
In the "Date" field, type 1880:1920

Results: Biographies of astronomers published during this period

For a specific author for publications appearing only
in Observatory publications series

Example: In the "Notes" field, type QB 4

In the "Author" field type annie&cannon

or to be very specific type =cannon*

Results: Articles by Annie J Cannon in the Harvard Annals Series

Browse a title word for a specific date range

Example: In the "Title" field type lunar

In the "Date" field type 1850:1930

Results: All entries with lunar in title for this period

Browse a subject word for a specific date range

Example: In the "Subject" field, type astronom* & hist*

In the "Date" field type 1880:1950

Results: All entries assigned that subject heading in this period

VII. Astrophysics Data System

<http://adsabs.harvard.edu>

Click on "Abstracts", then click on "Astronomy and Astrophysics
Abstract Service"

Example: Newcomb in author field

Specify date range 1860 - 1909

Results: 136 entries

2nd Example: Pickering in author

Specify date range 1876 - 1919

Results: 335 entries

both Edward and William Pickering

To be very specific use the Exact Author Name Search option.

Individual observatory publication entries are being added to ADS;
approximately 4000 bibliographic entries from USNO in ADS now.

Harvard Univ. has NEH grant to microfilm observatory
publications for preservation, now underway.

If funds become available, ADS will scan the microfilm and
put full text on ADS, matching bibliographic entries
supplied by the Naval Observatory. For example, in the future,
a search of "pickering" will find full text of all
published works in the Harvard Annals series.

VIII. Uncover - current journal literature

The Uncover Company, Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries

<http://uncweb.carl.org>

Coverage from the Fall of 1988, 17,000 multidisciplinary journals

Click on Search Uncover

Click on Search Uncover Now

Examine table of contents of journals 1988 - the present

Example: Journal for the History of Astronomy

Search by keyword

Example: archaeoastronomy

Search by author

Example: Gingerich O

Uncover is especially useful if an author publishes in a wide range of journals (as Owen does), which you might not normally see in your library's collection.

You can search journals by their title, author, and article name at the same time, view table of contents, or order articles to be sent directly to your fax machine (for a fee).

Example: history astronomy (search all indexes)

IX. Astronomy Book Reviews

<http://www.astro.utoronto.ca/reviews1.html>

Listing maintained by Marlene Cummins, U. Toronto Astronomy Library

Book reviews from 1987, including many history of astronomy titles.

Search "osterbrock" for a list of books published since 1987, click on specific title to see where reviews of this title appeared.

Does not claim to be totally complete, but is an excellent source to find reviews in the major astronomical journals, including the Journal for the History of Astronomy.

X. ISIS Current Bibliography of the History of Science included in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine Database

Access via http://depts.washington.edu/hssexec/hss_hstdatabase.html

Members of the History of Science Society may search online

at no cost - must register for a password - send email to

hssexec@u.washington.edu

Online subscription costs quite high for libraries.

NOTE: All urls were checked and accurate as of January 12, 2000.

I would like to thank Gregory Shelton, Assistant Librarian at the Naval Observatory for his assistance in preparing this information.