# H. A. D. News

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

Number 53 August 2000



Cover: Selected Twentieth Century Histories of Astronomy [T. H.]

#### Nomination Slate for HAD Officers (2001-2003)

Committee: David DeVorkin -Chair; Kate Bracher, Kevin Krisciunas, Ron Brashear (released from duty upon nomination)

[Ballots will accompany the next issue of *HAD News*. All HAD Officers, except the Secretary/Treasurer, serve a two-year term.

From the Bylaws: ". . . additional candidates may be nominated by petition of at least 10% of the Membership, or 10 Members, whichever is greater." Petitions to the Secretary will be accepted until October 6, 2000. - T. H.]

Vice-Chair (Vote for One) The Vice-Chair assumes the office of Chair, at the end of the present Chair's term.

Alan Fiala: "My 40 years in professional astronomy have been spent at three institutions of historical significance in astronomy: Goodsell Observatory (Carleton College), Yale University, and the U. S. Naval Observatory in Washington. In June, I retired from a 38-year career at USNO, having been for the last four years Chief of the Nautical Almanac Office as successor to LeRoy Doggett. I plan to continue research on the solar radius that depends on analysis of historical observations taken at solar eclipses, and I also have interests in the history of almanacs, navigation, and positional astronomy.

"In the last decade I have served as the Vice-Chair, Chair, and past-Chair of the DDA; served a threeyear term on the Brouwer Prize Committee; and was local host of one annual meeting. I have served in an executive leadership capacity in several other civic and social organizations, and, if elected, will contribute my experience and time to the HAD."

Tom Williams: After enjoying the benefits of membership for over fifteen years, Tom Williams feels it is about time he gave something back to the organization by serving HAD in some capacity, and has agreed to be nominated for the position Vice Chairman. His special interest is the history of amateur astronomy, a topic on which he recently successfully defended a dissertation at Rice University. He is also interested in the history of astronomical

institutions, particularly observatories and organizations.

Williams writes: "Obituary notices for deceased members are published in the Bulletin of the AAS and play an important part of our organization's institutional memory. The AAS Council delegated the responsibility to prepare these notices to HAD. As a HAD member I have participated in this important service to the AAS. I feel that I can make a contribution as the HAD Vice Chairman, by supervising the preparation of such obituary notices as may be required. As an independent scholar and otherwise retired individual, I will have the time and resources to ensure that this important task is carried out effectively for the AAS while participating in the other HAD leadership activities as required."

#### Secretary/Treasurer (Vote

**for One)**<sup>\*</sup> The S/T is a four-year term.

\*This is an appointed office. Your vote will serve as a referendum on the Committee's appointment.

**Ronald Brashear** is the Curator of Rare Books in

the Smithsonian Institution's Dibner Library of the History of Science & Technology. Prior to this, he was Curator of History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, and Institutional Archivist at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, from 1988 to 1998 where he oversaw the Edwin Hubble Papers and the Archives of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. In graduate school he was a research assistant at The Johns Hopkins University and served briefly on the Space Telescope History Project at the National Air and Space Museum. Ron received his B.A. and M.S. from the University of Louisville and spent four years at Hopkins studying for his Ph.D. in the history of science.

Recent publications include "The Astrophysical Journal: A New Journal for a New Science" ApJ 455 (1995): 403-411, and Ron has contributed encyclopedia entries for History of Astronomy (1997), Instruments of Science (1998), and American National Biography (1999). He is currently co-curator for an exhibition, "A Millennium of Stargazing: One Thousand Years of the Art and Science of

Astronomy," opening in November 2000 at the Huntington Library.

"I've worked for many years now with newsletters, mail merges, and mailing lists in both Microsoft Word and WordPerfect, so I feel pretty comfortable with that. Plus I usually get laser printed mailing labels if I have to print When I was at the them. Huntington, we contracted with a private company to do the mailings. We provided the newsletters and an Excel file with the mailing list and they did the rest. I don't know if we could do something like this maybe? It's usually worth the expense (usually a very reasonable expense) not to tie ourselves up with the details of mailings. And I might be able to get the Libraries to host a web site where we can put up an electronic version of the newsletter if we're interested in doing that."

**Committee (Vote for Two)** Committee members may be Division Affiliates.

Brenda Corbin, librarian at the U. S. Naval Observatory, has held this position since 1973. Her objectives have always been to maintain and enhance the library's collection,

keeping it as one of the most complete astronomical libraries in the world. One of her prime interests is the preservation of 19th and early 20th century publications from observatories around the world. In 1979, she began noting the importance of this series of publications and its preservation. After many years this project has come to fruition as Harvard University is now microfilming the series thanks to the collaboration of Wolbach librarian Donna There are plans Coletti. to digitize the microfilm so that full texts of these volumes will be available via the Astrophysics Data System (ADS).

Brenda enjoys assisting historians of astronomy in finding "hidden" resources via careful bibliographic sleuthing. She has published papers on various astronomy library topics, and history of astronomy papers relating to Simon Newcomb and Etienne Trouvelot.

Thomas Hockey studied planetary astronomy (under Professor Reta Beebe) and the History of Science (under Professor William Eamon) at New Mexico State University. He undertook his first project in the history of astronomy at NMSU: an oral-history videotape with Clyde Tombaugh. Hockey is presently Professor of Astronomy at the University of Northern Iowa, where he teaches astronomy and the history & philosophy of science. This summer he is a Faculty Associate at Arizona State University West, teaching archeoastronomy.



The focus of Hockey's historical research has been the development of the modern idea of "planet," specifically how paradigms from stellar/solar astrophysics, and from the geosciences, resulted in the archetypes of the "terrestrial" and "jovian" planets. He hopes to extend this study to include evolution of the planet-concept in light of historical searches for planets orbiting other stars.

Since 1997, Hockey has been Secretary/Treasurer of the HAD. In this capacity he administers the paperwork associated with the modest growth of the Division. One accomplishment he considers to be important is returning the redesigned HAD News, which he edits, to a regular, quarterly publication cycle.

Hockey has served on the HAD committee that selected the first two recipients of the LeRoy Doggett Prize. As HAD Treasurer, he saw to it that the principal donated to the Doggett Prize fund was not spent. (Prize expenses were budgeted out of general operating accounts.) Thus, the fund can continue to grow through further donations and interest accumulation.

As an elected member of the HAD Committee, Hockey would like to improve interaction between the HAD and the DPS, in order to advance the history of solar-system science. As for other future plans, he intends to present, at an appropriate upcoming meeting, his fieldwork on astronomical motifs in Easter Island rock art.

Karl Hufbauer (Ph.D., U. C. Berkeley, 1970; Prof. emeritus, U. C. Irvine, 1999-; Adj. Prof., U. of Washington, 2000).



"My research in the history of astronomy has focused on the ways in which astronomers and physicists have cooperated/competed in the astrophysical arena. This was a major theme in my Exploring the Sun: Solar Science since Galileo (1991) and in archivally-based articles on the stellar-energy problem, Edlen's solution of the coronal-line problem, Lyot's development of the coronagraph, and the genesis of the Ulysses mission. I am currently working on a monograph on the stellar-energy problem from 1900 to 1940."

Marc Rothenberg, Editor of the Joseph Henry Papers at the Smithsonian Institution Archives is a charter member of HAD. A former undergraduate astronomy major at Villanova University who switched to history of science, his dissertation at Bryn Mawr College focused on the education of 19th-century American astronomers.

Rothenberg has researched 19th-century American history, studied the history of science and scientific institutions, and has contributed numerous studies of the American professional and amateur astronomical communities. He was a chapter contributor to the AAS Centennial History, a contributor to the 150th anniversary issue of the AJ, and is widely known for his leadership in the Notre Dame workshops and as editor of various Garland series bibliographies and encyclopedias in the history of science. He has been associated with the Henry Papers Project since 1975 and has been Editor since 1985.

Rothenberg is the Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee of the History of Science Society. He also help establish the Special Interest Group in the History of Astronomy for the History of Science Society. Among his current projects is a study of Henry's research on solar surface temperature in the 1840s.

[Photos provided by the candidates]



# HAD Expands to fill AAS

Virginia Trimble HAD Chair

Well, not quite. BUT the plenary speaker for the joint session of AAS and American Association of Physics Teachers on the morning of Thursday, 11 January, will be Dennis R. Danielson of the University of British Columbia, a HAD division affiliate, speaking on "The Great Copernican Cliche." He will provide a cheerful but serious tour of what geocentrism really meant about the place of mankind in the Universe and the upgrade implied by allowing us to take place in the "dance of the stars." This will include brief visits to Chalcidius, Martianus Capella, Alanus ab Insulis, Moses Maimonides, and Dante, as well as Copernicus himself, Digges, Galileo, Kepler, le Bouvier de Fontenelle, and Huygens. Some of the material is drawn from Danielson's newly published Book of the Cosmos: Imagining the Universe From Heraclitus to Hawking. [See the review on page 16.]

### Things You Can Do With, For, and To HAD

#### (a message from the chair)

COME TO SAN DIEGO, TOUR, AND TALK. The Division returns to its traditional Sunday-Monday pattern, 7-8 January 2001 in San Diego. The Sunday sessions will take place at San Diego State University, where there will be an opportunity to visit the Zinner Collection (description below) and to hear an assortment of oral presentations.

One focus will be on major astronomical boners of the past and their influence on progress of the field. David DeVorkin and Owen Gingerich are planning to speak on "Russell's Giant and Dwarf Theory of Stellar Evolution" and "Epicycles upon Epicycles," respectively, and the chair will try again to squeeze in her talk on the transparency of space (deleted from the Atlanta program because another speaker asked for additional time).

Talks on this and other subjects in historical astronomy will continue on Monday at the venue of the main AAS meeting, the Town and Country Hotel. *Please* contact the chair when you decide (a) that you are coming to the Sunday session and (b) what you want to talk about. The formal abstract deadline is 18 October, but we would like to be able to do some advance planning.

SERVE ON A COMMITTEE OR RUN FOR OFFICE. People who are willing to help are always needed. Tasks include the Nominating Committee, the Doggett Prize Committee, the Audit Committee, a potential working group on Archaeo- and Ethno-Astronomy, and being a candidate for the Division Committee or other positions. If you might be able to help with one of these, please contact the chair.

WRITE OR HELP WITH AN OBITUARY. Contact the chair-elect if you would be willing to write about any of the people on Barbara Welther's list, or, in the future, if you can help with people who appear in the necrology in regular AAS newsletters. Please also let her know if you hear of the death of an AAS member (or, especially, former member) whom we might not otherwise know about.

SUMMARY. Contact the chair (vtrimble@uci.edu) if you plan to join us at SDSU on Sunday 7 January, if you plan to give a talk (or present a poster) on an "astronomical boner" or some other topic at San Diego, or if you can help with Division committees etc. Contact the chairelect (bwelther@cfa.harvard.edu) if you can help with an obituary.

ABOUT THE ZINNER COLLECTION. The German historian of science, bibliographer, and variable star expert Ernst Zinner amassed a major collection of astronomical books, pamphlets, theses, and portraits, and these were acquired some time ago by San Diego State University. Since that time, the Friends of the Library have assisted in the purchase of additional rare astronomics works, the crown jewel being a first edition of Copernicus' De Revolutionibus.

Other holdings include Sacrobosco's Sphaera (1485); an autographed manuscript on eclipses by the 16th century German astronomer Cyprian Leovitius; Schiller's Coelum Stellatum Christianum (1627), which is a Christianized atlas of the heavens, in which the zodiac is replaced by the twelve apostles; and the Saalfelder Weignactsbuchlein of 1908-a pamplet so rare that the Dictionary of Scientific Biography cites this collection as the place to find this unexpected biographical source on the 16th century Wittenberg astronomer Erasmus Reinhold.

A number of small bibliographies and checklists have been issued by the collection, including one that makes this collection a prime source of historical astronomical portraits.

[Description courtesy of Owen Gingerich]

#### From the Obituary Committee

# Status of Obituaries, July 2000

Barbara Welther Vice Chair

First of all I'd like to thank Virginia Trimble for the heroic effort that she's made in the last three-and-half years of cleaning up the backlog of unassigned and unwritten obituaries for AAS members. Because of her success in finding writers and keeping them to deadlines, we're almost caught up in assigning and receiving the obituaries in a timely fashion.

Secondly, I'd also like to thank Lynn Scholz, Publications Associate for the AAS and Associate Editor of the AAS Newsletter, for her accurate and efficient handling of all the steps in the process of notifying AAS members of the deaths of their colleagues: sending out initial reports, wordprocessing written obituaries, scanning photographs, and keeping records of published and not-yet published obituaries. All this and she's also one of the most upbeat and delightful women with whom I've ever worked!

Thirdly, I'd especially like to thank David Devorkin, Don Osterbrock, and Tom Williams for all their time and effort in the past year to help out the cause. They suggested authors for some of the obituaries and volunteered to write many more than their share of the others. Without their special help, I'd have to report many more than just two obituaries that still have no author.

Finally, I'm indebted to Donna Coletti and her industrious staff in the Wolbach Library at the Center for Astrophysics, for all the research they've done to find data and previously published obituaries for some of our deceased AAS members. They've all provided invaluable service to the obituary project of the HAD.

On June 30th we learned of the death of Frederick H. Hollander of Lebanon, Oregon, who was an emeritus member of AAS. He's not listed in the current American Men and Women of Science. If anyone has any information about him, such as an institutional affiliation or former colleagues who would like to write an obituary for him, please contact me:



Barbara Welther Center for Astrophysics Cambridge, MA 02138 bwelther@cfa.harvard.edu The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena: Third Conference

Palermo (Sicily), Italy --December 31, 2000-January 6, 2001

Rolf Sinclair NSF

In 1993, while Ray White and I were discussing the plans for an archaeoastronomy meeting (which occurred as "Oxford V" in 1996), we searched for a definition of what that meeting should consist of. In defining appropriate limits on such a meeting, we came up with a much more general idea for a meeting to explore mankind's fascination with the sky by day and by night --not just in the archaeological and anthropological records, but in all of human activity. What would happen, for example, if human culture had developed on a perpetually cloudy planet, and suddenly the clouds parted--this would be a measure of the strength of the imagery of the sky.

Out of this, with the encouragement and help of George Coyne (Vatican Observatory) came the first meeting on "The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena" (INSAP), held in 1994 at Castelgandolfo. Even with short notice and limited publicity, a large and diverse group came and made the meeting most interesting. Then a group in Malta offered to host a second INSAP meeting in 1999--this time with the help of the WWW we attracted a larger and even more diverse group, with more participation from the arts and humanities.

Close to half (24) of the 55 presentations at INSAP II dealt with art (mostly), literature, and architecture. Fourteen dealt with peoples' worldviews and how they were affected by the sky. Twelve dealt with specifically astronomical topics, such as the interplay between astronomical events and history. Five were on educational or other topics. In addition to the presentations (talks and posters), each conference took advantage of its location for outings to nearby places of great interest. [The details of papers presented at the first two conferences, and of the conference excursions, can be found at our Website (http://ethel.as.arizona. edu/~white/insap).]

INSAP seems to be filling a real need. It brings together for the first time a broad range of those working in art history and the arts, mythology and religion, the humanities, and social and physical sciences. It gives them a chance to compare their work along the common axis of human perceptions about the day- and nighttime sky.

Now a third INSAP will be held starting New Year's Eve (Dec. 31, 2000) in Palermo, to mark the 200th anniversary of the discovery of the first asteroid, Ceres, at the Observatory of Palermo. This meeting will be held overlooking the Mediterranean, a few minutes from the center of Palermo, and will start with a New Year's Eve (and Millennium Eve) banquet. The conference rooms will include ample space for display (and sale) of works of art by attendees. Full information on INSAP III and on the earlier conferences and their publications, and an application form for the upcoming meeting, can be found on the above Website or obtained from: insap3@oapa.astropa.unipa.it, rolf@santafe.edu, or REWhite1933@aol.com. A11

presentations and discussions will be in English.



INSAP II Participants

## Book Review I

E. F. Milone University of Calgary

Bugis Navigation by Gene Ammarell, 1999, Monograph 48, Yale Southeast Asia Studies, New Haven, 1999.

This book is based on Ammarell's Yale PhD thesis, which documents his experiences and lessons of nearly two years spent immersed among and working alongside the maritime Bugis people of Indonesia, or to be more precise, a community of people living on a tiny island called Balobaloang in an archipelago about 100 nautical miles south of Sulawesi (Celebes) in the time frame 1988-1997 (but primarily on the interval 1991-92). Ammarell prepared carefully for the

experience, and thanks to prior study of the language, was able to interview skilled practitioners and serve on board their ships to both learn and practice Bugis navigational techniques.

Although, from the title, navigation would seem to be the central concern of the book, it is in fact more of a description of the people themselves and how they interact with each other and relate to the outside world. As such, it tells readers far more than they may ever want to know about the Bugis. In probably the most colorful passage in the book, a local leader under the colonial regime is described as having so much charismatic 'power over other people', that, although a good, and presumably fair man,

> "if he didn't want you to stand up, you couldn't; . . . if he was angry with you he could make you vomit/defecate on the spot, . . ." [p. 46].

Even some of this may be topical. In a private communication to this reviewer, Ammarell notes that the influences of such powerful (presumably non-Bugis) individuals may have played horrendous roles in the recent crises in Indonesian society.

As Ammarell describes the voyages and struggles of the Bugis people, he captures their situation at the end of the twentieth century and helps us to see how they have managed to survive and even prosper over the past few centuries despite warfare in their homeland of South Sulawesi that drove many of them into diaspora, the coming of Islam, the colonization by the Dutch, revolution and (Indonesian) independence, and the technological changes that have been altering the lives of everyone on the planet in recent times. Ammarell discusses in detail the types, shapes, sizes, and sails of their watercraft and the effects of motorization, and explores how these have evolved to help provide the Bugis (and particularly the few hundred people of Balobaloang) with the economic niches in which they somehow manage to survive and even, to some degree, prosper. Aside from the detailed flora and fauna descriptions and other lists (boats and boat crews, woods used in boat construction, types of cargoes, monsoons and currents, uses of the coconut palm, . . . one is now and then reminded of

Homer!), it is intrinsically interesting material, and very well told. Luckily for astronomer-historians, the lists include constellations and moon phases as recognized and used by the mariners.

The ways in which the Bugis conceptualize space on ship and shore make for especially interesting reading. For instance, their native names for east and west directions originate from the words for seaward and landward in their Boné homeland on the east coast of the South Sulawesi; yet the formal terms used both on the island and shipboard carry just the opposite meanings, explained by their initial migration to the west side of the peninsula, where the center of regional government still lies. Ammarell refers to himself as an ethnographer, but he did study astronomy at the masters level at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and taught at the Fiske Planetarium, and his technical astronomy descriptions and interpretations appear to be competent. He discusses, for instance, how the locations of the asterisms and the Moon provide navigational aid to the seamen, both through rising/setting and

culminating positions. The stellar asterisms used by the most proficient navigators are well illustrated (both native asterisms and modern western constellations and asterisms are shown) and discussed. I particularly enjoyed reading the tale of Antares as the 'lost Pleiad' as having been 'stolen' from 'the cluster', often still known, as it is elsewhere, by the name 'seven stars'. The culprit, surprisingly, is the (sea) skate (part of our Scorpius), who swam off with the brightest one to adorn his tail. Ever since, he furtively avoids 'the cluster', because as the Pleiades rises, Scorpius sets and vice versa, apparently always out of sight of each other. Of course, we do not know how ancient the lore about the Pleiades is, but the story as a whole is a perfectly charming example of solid practical knowledge embedded in ethnic folklore.

It is interesting that the annual variation of the sunrise/set azimuth seems not to have been of much interest for the Bugis, despite its almost paramount importance among many cultures. The Moon, on the other hand, because of the effects of the tide on local currents, its availability at night (the Bugis are mainly coastal sailors, and so make full use of the many islands in the area for position determination), and its religious connotations for this Islamic people, maintains its importance. The prayers aboard ship are shown to provide a timelike grid for a day's operations, rather like in the medieval monasteries of Europe, and these, with the temporal and spatial grid established with the help of the stars and (more usually these days) the magnetic compass, help fix the voyage in time and space. It would be interesting to know the impact on Bugis navigation practices global positioning has had in the few years since Ammarell's field work.

Finally, Ammarell investigates the means by which the navigational knowledge of the Bugis are transmitted through the generations. The result, as Ammarell puts it, is 'a meaning-centered and historically grounded account of Bugis navigation knowledge and practice' [p. 9]. One can only concur. This kind of study can only help us to understand how ancient peoples in greatly differing areas of the world might have

transmitted their knowledge of astronomy.

While there are ample discussions in the literature of oceanic navigational astronomy, these are largely lacking for the peoples of Southeast Asia. Gene Ammarell's book provides a welcome addition to this literature.

# Book Review II

Virginia Trimble University of California/ Irvine, and University of Maryland

The Book of the Cosmos; Imagining the Universe from Heraclitus to Hawking, by Dennis Richard Danielson, 2000, Perseus Publishing, ISBN 0 7382 0247 9. \$35. xxxiii + 556 pages, glossary, index, drawings, etc.

Here are 85 mostly short chapters, a typical one consisting of extracts from the writing of somebody you have heard of (Plato, Plutarch, Descartes, Halley, Herschel, Poe, Eddington, Feynman, Hubble, Hoyle, Rees . . .) with introductions, bridges, explanations, and some of the translations from author Danielson. Despite the subtitle, Heraclitus is Chapter 2 and Hawking Chapter 74, with 1 and 85 belonging to Genesis (New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition) and Gingerich (with a hard G, however tempting the assonance might be, and also, as it happens, a sermon).

It would be wicked of me to tell you all the neat ideas to be found in these pages (right in there with "the butler did it"). It would also be impossible. There are far too many. And I have not found them all-even with Danielson's help, I *cannot* read Milton. But here are a few favorites.

William Herschel worried that all the stars might eventually be destroyed by collisions, but decided that the "great Author" had taken care of the matter with, perhaps, a few destructions being "the very means by which the whole is preserved and renewed." Incidentally, I am still trying to figure out just when a certain degree of piety ceased to be compulsory in serious astronomical writing.

Good old Auguste Comte, whom you have probably heard quoted before as saying that the chemistry and minerology of the planets and stars can never be known, about 20 years before Bunsen and Kirchhof began to make them known, also declared that "the innumerable stars . . . are of no other scientific interest other than to provide positions . . . with which we may compare the interior movements of our system." And this within even fewer years of the first measured stellar parallaxes and binary orbits and so measured stellar masses. One is reminded of defenders of the "old astronomy" at the end of the 19th century declaring that our only proper business is in charting the motions of the stars and that astronomers should not concern themselves with spectroscopy or other speculative endeavors.

Kepler, who described Sirius as looking only a little smaller than the diameter of the moon, must of been the only professional astronomer in history with eyesight worse than that of the present reviewer. He was a last-ditch immutabilitist, declaring that "scientists will henceforth cease to create comets and new stars out of the Milky Way, after the manner of Brahe, lest they irrationally assert

the passing away of perfect and eternal celestial bodies."

Tycho, as you probably know, set upper limits to the geocentric parallax of the new star of 1572 and the comet of 1577, putting them firmly outside the sphere of the Moon. On the other hand, he should not be blamed uniquely for the fudged Solar System with Mercury and Venus (only) circling the Sun, which, in turn, circles the Earth. Α certain Martianus Capella (no, I hadn't heard of him before, but do not suppose he was named for the star) adumbrates (Danielson's word) such a system in the fifth century. Incidentally, this arrangement predicts a full range of phases for Venus, which Galileo discovered post Tycho, as well as post Martianus.

Agnes Mary Clerke (an astronomy popularizer rather than researcher, and one of seven women represented; the author expresses concern that he could not find suitable writings by more) believed that "the laws of terrestrial magnetism can be completely investigated only with the aid of a concurrent study of the face of the Sun," 15 years before G. E. Hale discovered the solar magnetic field (1908). But she also hoped that "the positions of the planets will perhaps one day tell us something of impending droughts, famines, and cyclones." She had in mind something more like "the Jupiter effect" than astrology.

Half a dozen authorities each argue back and forth across the centuries about whether space is completely transparent and whether the univers is infinite (the two issues are related through Olbers' Paradox, with the author correctly describes as a riddle rather than a paradox and attributes to earlier writers). And much, much else.

Rather unusually among recent books, this one has an index that is almost as good as one might hope. It includes all the people mentioned even in passing if they have at least a first name, and lots of entities both concrete (earthshine, coupling constants) and more diffuse (infinitude, astronomy influenced by art . .)

A couple of complaints, of course! The author has deliberatedly addressed the western tradition in cosmology, so we cannot object to the absence of the Gita. But I feel that the long time gap from Martianus and Boethius around 500 CE to Mainmonides around 1180 CE might have been bridged by one or two Arab (or Irish?) writers. Incidentally, Maimonides and the other Moses are the only two who write from a specifically Jewish perspective. And it would have been nice and perhaps even useful to be told just a bit more about the people being quoted. All have dates (on a "best available" basis) attached, but not everybody has even a country or a city, including the three just mentioned, or a context provided by names of teachers or students or opponents. Despite which, this is not one of the review copies that I will be able to hand on as a gift to someone else. First, I want to go back many times to some of the extracts, and, second, I wrote all over it, trying to connect up the various ideas presented with each other and with other things I thought I knew.



# From the Secretary

Mary Lestina's article in this issue (page 21) completes a series with titles such as "Current Activities of HAD Members in the \_\_\_\_\_." Installments have included thumbnail research biographies of HADers grouped by geographic area (North, South, East, and West).

All these articles were written by undergraduates at the University of Northern Iowa, and provided them with a unique opportunity to practice professional writing. I thank each HAD member who took the time to provide my students with biographical information by e-mail.

I also invite some of our overseas (plus Canada) members to write and tell us what you are up to, within the broadly defined area of history of astronomy.

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

#### Some Recent Discussion "Threads" on the History of Astronomy Discussion Group (HASTRO-L)

- French Observatories
- Clock Making
- Astronomy of Emerson
- Astronomy in Music
- 'Great Books' of Astronomy
- John H. Lindle
- Nazca Lines
- Women at HCO
- Eridanus
- Griffith Observatory
- Dinsmore Alter
- Timing of Easter
- Cathedrals as Solar Observatories
- Galileo's Daughter
- Astronomical Rock Art in Egypt
- Von Zach's 'Celestial Police'
- Huygens on the Orion Nebula
- 1900 Wadesboro Eclipse Expedition
- Moses
- Measurement of Dip at Sea

HASTRO-L is provided by Stephen McCluskey at the University of West Virginia.



# Upcoming Meetings

[Source = Working Group for the History of Astronomy in the Astronomische Gesellschaft (Wolfgang Dick, Secretary)]

September 15, London, UK Ideas Whose Time Had Come, a British Society for the History of Science/Royal Institution conference. Includes also papers on cases from the history of astronomy. Contacts: BSHS Executive Secretary, 31 High Street, Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 8LH, UK See also the accouncement in ENHA 43, Item 3.

September 15-16, Mariapfarr/Lungau, Austria Annual Meeting of the Working Group for Sundials in the Austrian Astronomical Society (Arbeitsgruppe Sonnenuhren im Oesterreichischen Astronomischen Verein). Contacts: Mag. Peter Husty, Burgfriedstr. 1, A-5400 Hallein, Austria, Tel.: +43(0)6245-73304, e-mail: husty\_mascha@utanet.at

September 18, Bremen/Lilienthal, Germany International Relations in Astronomy Colloquium of the Working Group for the History of Astronomy in the Astronomische Gesellschaft. URL: <u>http://www.astro.uni-</u> <u>bonn.de/~pbrosche/aa/bremen</u> 2000/

September 22-24, Pittsburgh, Pa., USA JASHOPS 2000: Joint Atlantic Seminar in the History of the Physical Sciences - Interactions Between the History and the Philosophy of Science. Submitted papers should be concrete historical investigations on any topic in the history of physics, astronomy, chemistry, biophysics or geosciences. All are invited to submit papers, though preference will be given to students and recent PhDs. Contacts: e-mail: jashops+@pitt.edu URL: <u>http://www.pitt.edu/</u> ~jashops/

October 19-22, Montreal, Canada The Stewart Museum Globe Symposium.

Contacts: Nadia Hammadi, Stewart Museum, PO Box 1200, Station A, Montreal (Qc), H3C 2Y9, Canada, Tel: (514)861-6703, ext. 260, Fax: (514) 284-0123, email: nhammadi@stewartmuseum.org See also the accouncement in *ENHA* 43, Item 4. February 19-23, Tenerife, Spain

#### Symposium Galileo 2001.

Main themes: Galileo's Science, Galileo and the Church, The Century of Galileo Contacts: Orotava Canary Foundation for the History of Science, Central Office of the Foundation, C/ Calvario 17, 38300 La Orotava, Spain, Tel. 922 32 27 61, e-mail s\_orotava@redestb.es URL: http://www.iac.es/project/ galileo/galileo.html



#### Correspondence

We are saddened to read a letter from the Astronomy Department, Ohio State University, informing us of the death of HAD Member Philip C. Keenan. An obituary for Dr. Keenan appears in the most recent issue of *Mercury*.

#### Current Activities of HAD Members in the Southern United States

Mary Lestina

I am a recent graduate of the University of Northern Iowa. HAD Secretary Tom Hockey and I are interested in what HAD members of the Southern United States currently are working on in regard to historical astronomy. My inquiry brought many interesting results, and they are summarized as follows:

The research of many HAD members is focused on publishing or teaching about recent studies concerning historical astronomy. Tom Williams, from Houston's Rice University, recently finished his dissertation, "Getting Organized: A History of Amateur Astronomy in the United States." In addition, he is preparing two papers for future publication. They are entitled "A Short History of the ALPO Lunar Meteors Project" and "The Early History of the Schmidt Telescope/Camera in the United States."

Florida International University's Peter Wlasuk recently completed a book on lunar observations that included the history of lunar cartography. It is titled Observing the Moon. He also is studying the observations, and correcting the errors, of Lewis Swift (an american amateur astronomer turned professional), and examining the work Swift did for the NGC and IC catalogues. After William and John Herschel, Swift is third in discovering objects that eventually became catalogued.

Controversial astronomical topics intrigue Mary Kay Hemenway of the University of Texas. She teaches the Freshman Seminar course, "The Galileo Scandal." It is about what is considered the "greatest scandal in Christendom." The course examines the evidence from various viewpoints to allow students to decide the validity of the judgment against Galileo.

Stellar research interests Kenneth Rumstay of Valdosta State University. He is studying star formation and the interstellar medium (primarily HII regions) while monitoring continuum emissions from selected AGN, in association with the International AGN Watch.

R. E. White, from the University of Arizona, is working on synoptic light curves and period analysis for a sample of 29 field RR Lyrae (along with Arne Henden of USNO/Flagstaff) and a star count of the nine Southern Hemispheric globular clusters. White is editor-in-chief of the publication resulting from the Second Conference on "The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena." The conference was held in 1999 on the Island of Malta. [See article on page 11.]

Thank you to everyone who responded!



Contributors: The submission deadline for issue #54 is October 6, 2000.

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