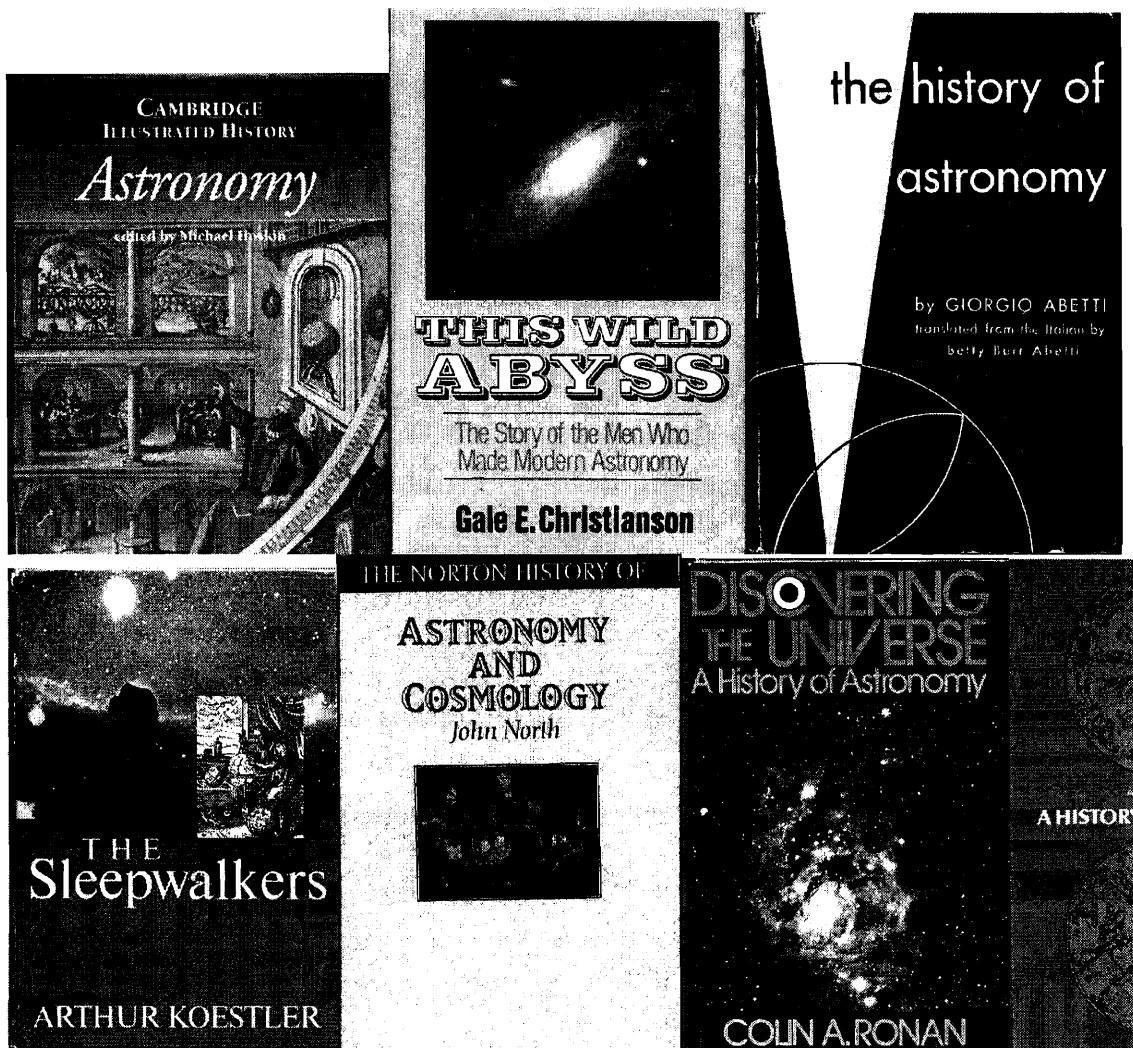


H. A. D. News

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 three-
year 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)* 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 them. When I was at the 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 Coletti. There are plans 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 "Epicyles upon Epicyles," 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 chair-elect (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 astronomy 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 Weignachtsbuchlein* of 1908-- a pamphlet 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, word-processing 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:



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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 night-time 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. All

