



H·A·D NEWS

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

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HAD Plans in Washington, DC

The time is near for the 199th AAS meeting in Washington, DC and we at HAD are busy scurrying about making sure everything is in order. As usual, HAD will be meeting in conjunction with the AAS and we have a special session on Sunday, Jan. 6, before the main AAS meeting, and a few tours lined up as well.

The Sunday session will be held at the AAS hotel, the Hilton Washington and Towers, 1919 Connecticut Ave., NW. The hotel is north of Downtown DC and about one-half mile north of Dupont Circle. It is about six to seven blocks north of the Q Street exit of the Dupont Circle Metro station on the red line. The session is titled "HAD I: New Views of Historical Research in the 21st Century," and it will be in the Caucus Room on the Terrace Level of the hotel. The room seats 100, so be sure to arrive early and get a good seat! The session will begin at **2:00 PM** and last until 4:00. **NOTE:** This has changed from earlier notices when it had been scheduled from 3:00 to 4:30, so please note the correct starting time!

There are seven papers scheduled for the Sunday session:

- 1.01 Heralds of Astronomy: Landmark Works in the History of Astronomy. R. Brashear (Smithsonian Inst.)
- 1.02 Crimson Tide: The Harvard Books on Astronomy. R.P. Lindner (The University of Michigan)
- 1.03 New Online Resources for the Historian of Astronomy. B. G. Corbin (U.S. Naval Observatory)
- 1.04 Strasbourg Astronomical Observatory: Its People through its Multinational History. A. Heck (Strasbourg Astronomical Observatory)
- 1.05 A great place to study astronomy: The Smithsonian Institution Archives. M. Rothenberg, A. Bain (Smithsonian Archives)
- 1.06 A Documentary History of the Discovery of Neptune. C.B. Waff (Encyclopedia Americana), N. Kollerstrom (University College London)
- 1.07 A Photo Archive for the History of Nuclear Astrophysics. D. D. Clayton (Clemson University)

continued on page 3

Donald E. Osterbrock Awarded the LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for Historical Astronomy

As announced in the last issue of HAD News, Donald E. Osterbrock has been named the recipient of the HAD LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for Historical Astronomy. Don Osterbrock is Professor Emeritus of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of California-Santa Cruz, and former Director of the Lick Observatory. His career in astronomy has been a long and distinguished one. He received his Ph.D. in astronomy in 1952 from the University of Chicago and, after a one-year fellowship at Princeton University, joined the Astronomy Department at the California Institute of Technology and the staff of the Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories. In 1958 he moved on to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, enjoying a fifteen-year stay there until 1973 when he became Director of the Lick Observatory. Don Osterbrock was named Professor Emeritus in 1993 and this no doubt gave him more time to pursue his interests in the history of astronomy.

Don Osterbrock's interest in history of astronomy became apparent after his move to Santa Cruz, when a few papers started appearing under his name, including "The California-Wisconsin axis in American astronomy," his first historical article, appearing in *Sky & Telescope* in 1976. Other articles followed, including some on James E. Keeler, a relatively forgotten figure at the time but, as Osterbrock realized, a significant figure in the history of modern astronomy. Osterbrock's work led to his writing and publication by Cambridge University Press in 1984 of, *James E. Keeler: Pioneer American Astrophysicist and the Early Development of American Astrophysics*. This book not only brought the career of Keeler into focus, but also shed light on the fascinating development of American astrophysics during its formative years and the important part that Keeler played in it before his untimely death in 1900 at age forty-two.

continued on page 2

Osterbrock awarded the Doggett Prize (continued)

Don Osterbrock's use of primary archival resources in his research demonstrated his skill in going beyond a mere recycling of already published information. With the Keeler book, he had certainly made an important historical contribution and, happily, continued on with other research topics. In 1988, with John R. Gustafson and W. J. Shiloh Unruh, Osterbrock authored *Eye on the Sky: Lick Observatory's First Century*. Osterbrock then turned his attention to Edwin Hubble as the centennial of that famous astronomer approached in 1989. Together with Joel Gwinn, a physicist at the University of Louisville who had turned up interesting information about Hubble's time in that city, and Ronald Brashear, curator of the Hubble Papers at the Huntington Library, they managed to show that Hubble's early years were often quite different than the stories that had been spread and printed about him after his death.

After Hubble, Don Osterbrock's attention turned to a figure of diminished reputation but of no small importance, George Willis Ritchey. Ritchey's rise and fall as George Ellery Hale's telescope expert was followed by his work with Henri Chretien in the development of the coma-free Ritchey-Chretien telescope design, used for every large telescope built or designed since the 200-inch Hale Telescope on Palomar Mountain. Osterbrock's book, *Pauper & Prince: Ritchey, Hale, & Big American Telescopes* was published by University of Arizona Press in 1993.

After Ritchey, Don Osterbrock turned his attention to the Yerkes Observatory. In *Yerkes Observatory, 1892-1950: The Birth, Near Death, and Resurrection of a Scientific Research Institution* (University of Chicago Press, 1997), he provided a necessary institutional history of this observatory, a major achievement for American astronomy at the end of the nineteenth century, to its decline after Hale departed for Mount Wilson, and its resurgence under Otto Struve.

Don Osterbrock's most recent historical book is his biography of Walter Baade, arguably the most influential observational astronomer of the twentieth century. *Walter Baade: A Life in Astrophysics* (Princeton University Press, 2001), describes an important figure in astronomy but who, due to his lack of interest in publicity unlike Hubble, remained unknown to the general public. Osterbrock points out what he considers to be his most important discovery, the two distinct stellar

populations: old and young stars. This discovery opened wide the previously marginal fields of stellar and galactic evolution—research areas that would be among the most fertile and exciting in all of astrophysics for decades to come.

With this body of work, not to mention all of his other historical journal articles, Don Osterbrock has done much to keep the history of astronomy before the public and is most deserving of the Division's Doggett Prize.

AIP Center for History of Physics Grants-in-Aid for History of Modern Physics and Allied Fields (Astronomy, Geophysics, etc.)

The Center for History of Physics of the American Institute of Physics has a program of grants-in-aid for research in the history of modern physics and allied sciences (such as astronomy, geophysics, and optics) and their social interactions. Grants can be up to \$2500 each. They can be used only to reimburse direct expenses connected with the work. Preference will be given to those who need funds for travel and subsistence to use the resources of the Center's Niels Bohr Library (near Washington, DC), or to microfilm papers or to tape-record oral history interviews with a copy deposited in the Library. Applicants should name the persons they would interview or papers they would microfilm, or the collections at the Library they need to see; you can consult the online catalog at our Website, <http://www.aip.org/history>, and please feel free to make inquiries about the Library's holdings.

Applicants should either be working toward a graduate degree in the history of science (in which case they should include a letter of reference from their thesis adviser), or show a record of publication in the field. To apply, send a vitae, a letter of no more than two pages describing your research project, and a brief budget showing the expenses for which support is requested to: Spencer Weart, Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740; phone: 301-209-3174, Fax: 301-209-0882 e-mail: sweart@aip.org.

Deadlines for receipt of applications are June 30 and December 31 of each year.

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HAD News is published on February, May, August, and November, and sent to all individual members of the Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society. The deadline for news and announcements is the fifteenth of the month prior to the month of publication. Please send contributions as email attachments in either Microsoft Word or WordPerfect to Ronald Brashear at brashearr@sil.si.edu.

HAD plans for Washington, DC (continued)

The session will be followed by a joint HAD/AIP reception next door in the Map Room from 4:30 to 6:00pm. Plans are for the reception to contain a special presentation by Spencer Weart and Joe Anderson on "New Resources in Historical Research."

On Monday, Jan. 7, there will be three HAD sessions at the Hilton hotel, two oral sessions and one display session. The display session is:

Session 15. HAD IV: New Views of Historical Topics

Display, Monday, January 7, 2002, 9:20am-6:30pm, Exhibit Hall

- 15.01 Who Really Coined the Word Supernova? Who First Predicted Neutron Stars? D. E. Osterbrock (UCO/Lick Obs./UCSC)
- 15.02 The Road to Wadesboro: Site Selection for Expeditions to Observe the 1900 Solar Eclipse. T. English (Guilford Tech. Comm. Coll), G. Riggsbee (Charlotte Am. Ast. Soc.)
- 15.03 Light/Shadow Interactions at the Great Gallery. I. R. Little-Marenin, S. J. Little (CASA, U. of CO), G. Cox (Canyonlands National Park)

The two oral sessions are:

Session 31. HAD II: The Development of American Astrophysics: Ideas, Instruments, Observatories and Astronomers

Special Session Oral, Monday, January 7, 2002, 10:30-12:00 noon, State Room (Terrace Level, seating 100)

- 31.01 The View from the Observatory: History is Too Important to be Left to the Historians. D. E. Osterbrock (UCO/Lick Obs./UCSC)
- 31.02 Is a "radio telescope" a telescope?: The integration of early radio astronomy into astronomy. W.T. Sullivan (Univ. Washington)
- 31.03 The Bruce Medalists. J.S. Tenn (Sonoma State University)

Session 40. HAD III: Some Controversies in the History of Astronomy

Special Session Oral, Monday, January 7, 2002, 2:00-3:30pm, State Room

- 40.01 Solar Orientation of Irish Early Christian Oratories. V.R. Tiede (Yale University)
- 40.02 Should Astronomy Abolish Magnitudes? K. Brecher (Boston U.)
- 40.03 History and Myth: Trans-Neptunian Objects and Their Terminology. D. W. E. Green (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics)
- 40.04 Sixteenth Century Astronomical Telescopy. P.D. Usher (Penn State)
- 40.05 Flamsteed's Supernova of 1680. R. A. Fesen (Dartmouth College)
- 40.06 What a Difference a Day Makes: A History of the Date Line. I. R. Bartky (Bethesda, MD)

Abstracts for the papers can be found on the AAS program website at: <http://www.aas.org/meetings/aas199/program/>.

The HAD business meeting will take place from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in the State Room, between the HAD II and III sessions.

On Tuesday, we have a couple of special events for AAS and HAD members. From 10:00 am until 12 noon, there will be an open house at the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology in the National Museum of American History. Don't arrive any earlier than 10:00, because the Museum does not open before then. The security guards will check all bags brought into the Museum. Feel free to come to the Dibner Library anytime during that two-hour window, no reservations are needed. Ron Brashear will be there to show you some of the astronomical treasures that are kept there, including Rheticus's *Narration prima* (1540), Copernicus's *De revolutionibus* (1543), first editions by Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler, Galileo, Isaac Newton, and countless other astronomers. We'll even have some manuscripts by Regiomontanus, Kepler, Galileo, and Newton on display. A good time will be had by all. As for directions: coming in from the north on the Metro, the closest station to us is Federal Triangle on the blue & orange lines. Take the only exit out of the station and the escalators will put you in a plaza by the Ariel Rios Building. Turn left and left again to go around the escalator area and head in the opposite direction from which you exited the Metro. Stay to the right and walk along the colonnade until you reach 12th Street, and go down the street to the right (heading south towards Constitution Avenue & the Mall). Cross Constitution Ave. and the National Museum of American History will be to your right. Coming in from the south on the Metro, the closest station is Smithsonian on the blue & orange lines. Take the Mall exit out of the station and turn left when you get to the top of the escalators on the Mall proper. Walk towards the north side of the Mall (the Capitol will be to your right and the Washington Monument to your left). The National Museum of American History will be the large boxy building to the left. The Dibner Library is on the first floor of the National Museum of American History. If you enter from our Constitution Avenue side, you will be on the first floor (the Mall entrance puts you on the 2nd floor). We are in the West wing of the building. If you come in the Constitution entrance (the only one open before 10am), walk past the information desk into the Material World area. Turn right toward the West Wing escalators. Stay to the left side of the escalators—past the Lemelson Center and the Fellowship & Intern Offices, past the "Striving for Standards" exhibit case, and just opposite the escalators will be the "Underwater Web" exhibition. Go into the exhibit area, a long, narrow, dark area. The door to the Dibner Library is at the end of the exhibit hall. Ring the doorbell and we will let you in. If you come from the Mall side, go in the entrance and you are on the 2nd floor of the Museum. Head towards the left around the gift shop and towards the large seated statue of George Washington. Behind George are the escalators; take the escalator down to the first floor. Behind you at the bottom of the escalator is the "Underwater Web" exhibition.

At 1:00 pm there will be a tour of the new exhibition, "Explore the Universe," in the National Air and Space Museum. This exhibition, curated by HAD member David DeVorkin, opened at

the museum on September 21. It is a splendid exhibition, visually exciting and actually containing real history! Even if you can't make the tour, you won't want to miss visiting the exhibition when you have some free time. You will find many fascinating objects, from a full-size replica of Tycho's observational armillary sphere, to William Herschel's 20-foot telescope, to the Newtonian observing cage of the 100-inch Hooker Telescope on Mount Wilson. The National Air and Space Museum is located on the National Mall on Independence Ave. between 7th and 9th Streets SW. "Explore the Universe" is on the first floor towards the east end of the building. Preview the exhibition at its website:

<http://www.nasm.si.edu/galleries/gall111/universe/>.

And for those of you lucky enough to have signed up for the US Naval Observatory tour, congratulations, because the tour is now full. The tour takes place on Tuesday, 8 January 2002. Buses will depart the Washington Hilton at 8 PM and return at 10:30 PM. The Observatory is located at 3450 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, just a few minutes from the Hilton. The guided tour includes the 12-inch and 26-inch refractors, the latter the historic instrument used to discover the two moons of Mars in 1877. There will be a viewing through one of the telescopes, weather permitting. Participants will also visit the USNO Library and the Master Clock of the United States.

Stephen G. Brush awarded the Joseph Hazen Education Prize of the HSS

Stephen G. Brush, HAD member and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, was awarded the Joseph Hazen Education Prize of the History of Science Society at the Society's annual meeting in November. The Prize is awarded each year "in recognition of outstanding contributions to the teaching of history of science," including influential writing or preparation of pedagogical materials as well as classroom teaching. The citation for the award of the Prize to Professor Brush mentioned the recent publication of a historically-oriented textbook, *Physics, The Human Adventure: From Copernicus to Einstein and Beyond*, co-authored with Professor Gerald Holton of Harvard, and other projects to enable teachers to use the history of science in their courses. It notes that he also supported science education by publicly challenging efforts to force public schools to teach creationism or abandon the teaching of evolution. Brush has been on the faculty at College Park since 1968, with a joint appointment in the Department of History and the Institute for Physical Science and Technology. He has served as President of the History of Science Society, and also won the Society's Pfizer Award for "the best book on history of science published in 1976."

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