

H·A·D NEWS

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

Number 73 ☞ October 2008

It's Election Time

As it does every two years HAD is holding an election for Vice Chair/Chair Elect and two members of the HAD Committee. The current officers may be found on the [HAD website](#).

In an e-mail sent to members 12 October 2008 by Secretary-Treasurer Joe Tenn, Donald Yeomans, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported:

The HAD Nominating Committee has submitted the following candidates for the positions of HAD Vice-Chair and two Committee members. Due to unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances, this process took longer than expected and the following nominees are being submitted later than the HAD bylaws allow. Hence the HAD Committee has temporarily suspended the bylaws.

The period for HAD members to submit nominations by petition has ended, and now the candidates are as follows:

For HAD Vice-Chair/Chair Elect:

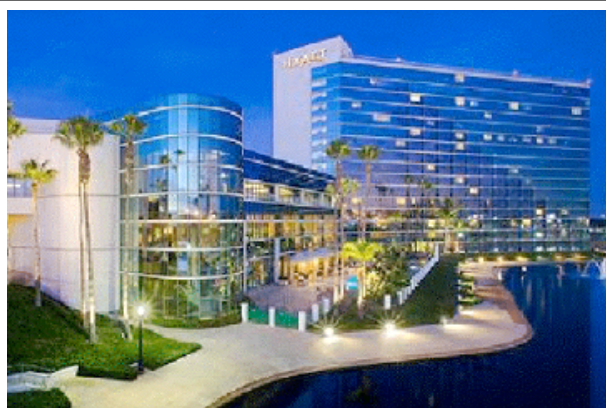
Jarita Holbrook

For HAD Committee Member (two positions)

Kevin Krisciunas

James Lattis

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We're Meeting in Long Beach

The Historical Astronomy Division will once again meet jointly with its parent organization, the American Astronomical Society, in January 2009.

HAD sessions will take place 4–6 January, while other AAS sessions will continue through 8 January. More information about the meeting may be found at <http://aas.org/meetings/aas213>.

This year HAD will present two special sessions of invited talks, a special Donald E. Osterbrock Memorial Lecture to the entire AAS, one session of contributed oral presentations, and one session of contributed poster papers.

The full schedule, with abstracts of all papers, is at <http://www.aas.org/had/meetings/>.

The first special session is **The Telescope in History: Topics in the 400-year History of the Telescope**, organized by Peter Abrahams.

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Sara Schechner with “Hans Lipperhey”

From the Chair

Sara J. Schechner, Harvard University

On September 25, 1608, Hans Lipperhey, a Dutch spectacle maker, left from Middelburg, the capital of the Province of Zeeland, to travel to The Hague, the seat of the governing body of the Dutch Republic, to apply for a patent for “a certain instrument for seeing far.” Lipperhey carried with him a letter of recommendation. In The Hague, he demonstrated his telescope to the Stadholder, Prince Maurits of Orange, court officials, and diplomats who were assembled there for a peace conference. News spread quickly throughout Europe of the remarkable invention.

Lipperhey’s patent application is the oldest known record of an actual, usable telescope. Copies of it survive in archives, and four hundred years later to the day, I had the good fortune to see them and related rare documents and instruments on

display in Leiden and Middelburg. I was in the Netherlands for two conferences that celebrated the Dutch invention and explored its pre-history, early production, and historical importance.

In January, HAD members will have the opportunity to share the latest findings on the history of the telescope at a special session in Long Beach. Another special session is devoted to photometry past and present. And a plenary talk by Don Olson on astronomy in art rounds out the meeting events HAD has planned for the start of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA).

In celebrating the anniversaries of Galileo’s astronomical use of a telescope, Kepler’s publication of his first two laws in the *Astronomia nova*, and Huygens’s announcement of his theory of Saturn’s ring, the IYA looks back as it develops people’s appreciation for astronomy and strives to cultivate a scientific outlook in modern society.



Early telescopes from the Peter Louwman Collection
Zeeuws Museum, Middelburg.

In my two years as Chair of HAD, the Division has also looked both back and forward. We have looked back in talks and papers on Moonwatch, astronomy at the time of Jamestown, how modern observatory directors get chosen, and many other topics. We have also looked forward in helping to establish a new Working Group for the Preservation of Astronomical Heritage, and have done our part to help insure that data and editorial records, glass plates and instruments, astronomical buildings and sites are identified and preserved for future astronomical and historical research, teaching, and public outreach.

A significant accomplishment occurred last June when the WGAH and HAD convinced the AAS Publication Board and Council to change the restriction on access to the editorial records of AAS journals from 75 years to 50 years for newly created files. Moreover, “upon application to the

editor-in-chief, a qualified historian may be granted permission to access manuscripts and peer-review-related materials after a period of 15 years, for the purpose of aggregate studies and determination of trends in scientific opinion.” This brings the AAS in line with similar professional societies, and will make it possible for the AAS to find a repository willing to take its editorial archives.



Early depiction of a ‘Dutch telescope’ from the “Emblemata of zinne-werck” (Middelburg, 1624) of the poet and statesman Johan de Brune (1588-1658).

In the last two years, the Division has also enriched the resources we provide to our members. Thanks go to Joe Tenn for making our website a veritable library of useful materials, including indices and links to HAD papers and abstracts, AAS members’ obituaries, back issues of *HAD News*, and bibliographies on historical astronomy, as well as histories of the AAS and HAD, and more general online resources. Joe is also to be thanked for the resuscitation of our *HAD News*, which is no longer a frail and grey skeleton of loosely-attached news fragments but a wholesome and muscular corpus of news stories, book reviews, essays, and announcements with color pictures. At our meetings, we now have a HAD banner and booth in the exhibit hall. Tom Hockey is to be credited with this idea, which has proved so successful in getting the word out about our activities and serving as a social gathering place for HAD members during the meeting, that other AAS Divisions are thinking of following our lead. [The banner was created by Sara Schechner–Ed.]

And last but not least, we have created a new HAD Book Prize to be awarded biennially in alternate years with the Division’s highest recognition, the LeRoy Doggett Prize. Henceforth, the Doggett Prize will be reserved for an individual’s lifetime effort on behalf of historical astronomy, while the HAD Book Prize will honor a recent, significant publication in the field.

At a meeting of officers representing the histor-

ical divisions of various physics-related societies at the American Center for Physics, it became clear to me that HAD stands out as a leader in activities and programs. The other officers were amazed by what we routinely accomplish, the services we provide, and the energy we put into lobbying on behalf of and cultivating the growth of historical astronomical studies. I told them that it could not be done without our active members. You should all be proud.

As I sign off on my last column as HAD Chair, I look forward to working with all of you for many years to come.

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The HAD Office door at the UNI. The sign has been modified by Tom Hockey’s younger colleagues.

From the Vice Chair

Thomas Hockey, University of Northern Iowa

I want to use this space to thank HAD member Stephen McCluskey for visiting my school, the University of Northern Iowa, and presenting his talk, “Astronomy and Church Orientation in Early Medieval England.” It was a huge success. We nearly filled an eighty-person lecture room at 4:00 PM on a dreary Monday. Extraordinary.

There is a real interest in cultural astronomy here in the midland. If any HAD member happens to travel to (or more likely through) Iowa, and is interested in speaking to an eager audience, I would be happy to sign you up!

As chair of the AAS Obituary Committee, I am seeking a history sleuth from Colorado! We continue to attempt to publish a *BAAS* obituary for every deceased AAS member. **David S. Peregrine** died in 2000, yet we do not have any information about him. (He published one paper in 1957.) A letter mailed to his last address was returned. A web real-estate ad lists the house for sale. I need a volunteer to inquire about leads with former neighbors. Peregrine’s address was 190 South Marion Street Parkway, Denver.

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Call for Nominations for the 2010

LEROY E. DOGGETT PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY

The Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society awards its highest honor, the LeRoy E. Doggett Prize, biennially to an individual who has significantly influenced the field of the history of astronomy by a career-long effort.

Any member or affiliate member of HAD may nominate a candidate for the Prize. Nominations must include at least one detailed letter of support and a complete curriculum vitae for the nominee.

Deadline for nominations for the current prize cycle will be **March 15, 2009**. Nominations roll over for two prize cycles.

Please send supporting materials to the Secretary of the Prize Committee, [Joseph S. Tenn](mailto:Joseph.S.Tenn).

For further details about the Prize, please visit <http://www.aas.org/had/doggett/>.

Sara J. Schechner
Chair, HAD

P.S. HAD has recently created a separate HAD BOOK AWARD to be given biennially. The first award will be made in 2011. A call for nominations will be issued in early 2009.



From the Secretary-Treasurer

Joseph S. Tenn, Sonoma State University

The HAD website <http://www.aas.org/had/> continues to grow. Since the last newsletter I have expanded a page of links to sources of interest to historians of astronomy. This includes where to find many books and articles. Suggestions for additions are welcome.

The website now contains titles of all papers presented at all HAD meetings—including the forthcoming meeting in Long Beach—together with a number of historical astronomy papers presented to the AAS outside the HAD sessions or before HAD began in 1981. All of these papers have links to abstracts.

My lobbying effort to the AAS finally paid off. All of the *BAAS* obituaries are now online. Producing obituaries of all deceased AAS members is the main responsibility of the HAD Vice Chair. Obituaries can be found via the HAD website or ADS.

I will soon be sending out e-mails to the HAD membership regarding how to vote in the HAD election and also announcing the second HAD Minibanquet, to be held in Long Beach, 5 January 2009, after Don Olson's talk. Each mailing results in too many messages coming back. Please [update your information with the AAS](#) whenever it changes, and tell your filters that mail from me is not spam. Thank you.

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HAD Booth at Meeting

Thomas Hockey, Univ. of Northern Iowa

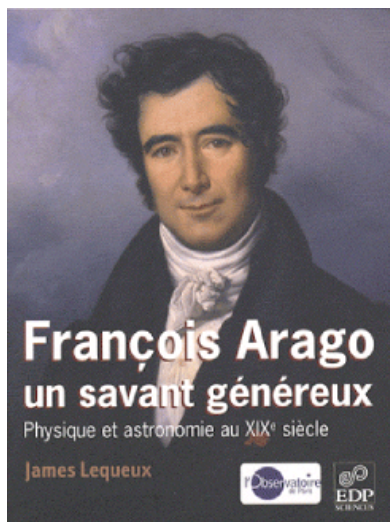
Our first-ever HAD Booth was such a success, we are doing it again! In 2009, coincident with the 400th anniversary of Galileo's telescope, HAD will have an exhibition floor booth at the AAS/HAD Long Beach Meeting. If you are going to the meeting, would you consider helping staff this booth for an hour or so?

You would not be selling anything: Our purpose is informational. We want to answer questions about HAD, get to know better current HAD members, and perhaps sign up a few new members, from among a population that may not be acquainted with us. Chair Sara Schechner has produced a great banner display for our use.

AAS is holding us to exhibitor rules, and that means staffing all meeting long. (We'll close down when sessions take place.) Still, if each of you attending gives us one hour, I believe we can cover the schedule. Want to be more active in HAD, but do not know how? This is your chance!

Wish to learn more? Write me back right away. We are going into a busy part of the year, and January will be here before we realize it. By the way, I'll try to get our booth near the coffee and donuts. :)

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Book Review

André Heck, Strasbourg Observatory

François Arago, un savant généreux – Physique et astronomie au XIX^e siècle, by James Lequeux (Ed. EDP Sciences & Obs. Paris, Paris, 2008).

This abundantly illustrated volume is much more than a mere biography of François Arago (1786-1853), French scientist and politician. In a fluid style, James Lequeux not only masterfully details Arago's life and achievements, but also carefully explains their ins and outs. Through Arago and the major rôle he played in France at both scientific and political levels, the reader is led through a fresco gathering together the historical events and the dramatic scientific evolution of the time. Lequeux's underlying work is impressive and results in a remarkably documented volume.

Arago's life was quite a busy one and it would be audacious to attempt to summarize it here in a few words. Arago took part in an adventurous measurement of a meridian arc in Spain (preliminary to the standardization of the metric system). He became a member of the French Academy of Sciences, a professor at the prestigious École Polytechnique, the Director of Paris Observatory and the Bureau des Longitudes, a member of the Chambre des Députés (parliament), a Minister of Navy, Colonies and War, etc. He was instrumental in the abolition of slavery in the French colonies.

His scientific contributions dealt with the solar chromosphere, chromatic polarization, the speed of sound, refraction in gaseous volumes, electromagnetism, and more.

Lequeux extensively details experiments and instruments, often with the help of inserts. Lequeux shows how Arago's activities fit within a fascinating epoch that saw several changes of regimes in France, as well as a scientific context including the birth of optics, photography, electricity, and thermodynamics. Arago was a splendid orator, a great teacher, and an accomplished popularizer. Lequeux also describes Arago's human surroundings, at first rank of which was his family—leading some critics to coin the word *aragocracy*.

My only difficulty with this book is of a technical nature. The publishers opted for large outside margins used on many pages for illustrations and legends. By contrast, the inside margins appear a bit too narrow and I frequently had to fight with the binding to be able to read conveniently the end of the lines on the left-hand pages and the beginnings of those on the right-hand pages. All illustrations are in black and white, something which is quite understandable for historical reproductions, but, at today's relative cheapness of color, its usage for some explanatory graphs and diagrams would have made a sexier volume (in publishing terms). Some readers would probably also make good usage of a more detailed index, including for instance secondary headers and titles of inserts — a suggestion for a possible second edition. But those reservations do not remove anything substantial from this masterpiece that should remain as a model for contextual biographies of scientists. It ought to be promptly translated into English, too.

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Ninth Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop: The History of Astronomy after 400 Years of the Telescope

Matthew Dowd, University of Notre Dame

In 1993, Notre Dame hosted an intimate gathering of historians of astronomy. A casual setting, a workshop atmosphere, and a congenial group of individuals made this conference a success, and plans were made to continue it as a biennial event. In 2009, the ninth such conference shall be held, attesting to the staying power of the community and the event. The informal nature of the conference has continued, as more and more historians of astronomy have experienced the camaraderie of our discipline. Presentations at the conference have ranged from archaeoastronomy to

twentieth-century astronomy, from the teaching of the history of astronomy to historiographical considerations, and all points in between. The workshop typically attracts around sixty to seventy attendees, including graduate students and international scholars. This year's international speaker will be Paolo Brenni, a noted telescope expert, from the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza in Firenze, Italy. I would like to cordially invite HAD members to participate in the upcoming conference.



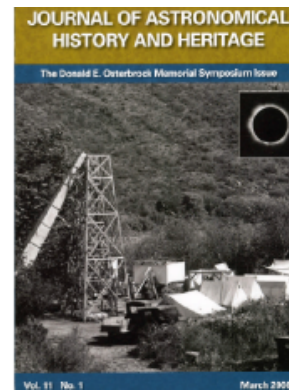
The Ninth Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop at Notre Dame will be held on July 8–12, 2009. The workshop falls during the International Year of Astronomy (IYA). Among the main goals of the IYA are to celebrate the impact that astronomy has and has had on human societies and cultures, as well as to increase the public's awareness of this rich heritage (see <http://www.astronomy2009.org/> for more). We invite papers and sessions that promote these goals.

Paper and session themes can include such diverse subjects as advances in the science itself, for example, through scholarship or instrumentation; the impact of astronomy on the broader culture, such as through literature or religion; and the means to promote knowledge of astronomy and its history among the public, such as through museums, teaching, and public outreach. As always, we are open to proposals that deal with subjects from a broad range of time periods and geographical regions. We are also open to nontraditional sessions, such as hands-on activities that could be used in classrooms or in public outreach.

The invention of the telescope and its use as an astronomical instrument was a watershed event in the history of astronomy. It changed the human understanding of the universe and our place in it. Those of us who study and appreciate the history of the science of astronomy recognize the immense impact that this instrument had on the science, even if our specific studies are not oriented around the telescope. For this reason we encourage papers and

session proposals that will consider how the telescope has been treated by historians over the past four centuries. Have we been asking the most useful questions about the telescope over time? What should we be asking about the role of the telescope in shaping the practice of astronomy? What should historians of today be asking about the telescopes of today to help the historians of tomorrow?

Submission guidelines and other details of the workshop are posted at <http://www.nd.edu/~histast/>. The deadline to submit a paper is March 1, 2009. Proposals should be sent to histast@nd.edu. Address other inquiries and more detailed questions to me. mdowd1@nd.edu



The JAH²

Hilmar W. Duerbeck, Brussels Free University (VUB) and Münster University

The *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage* is now in its 11th year of existence. It is published by the Centre for Astronomy, James Cook University, Australia, with editor Wayne Orchiston and associate editor Hilmar Duerbeck advised by an editorial board of 16 members (including HAD secretary-treasurer Joe Tenn) from 13 countries.

The journal is published three times yearly and features review papers, research papers, short communications, IAU reports, and book reviews. The annual subscription is AU\$ 88 (about US\$60) for individuals. This includes airmail postage.

Papers on all aspects of astronomical history are considered, including studies which place the evolution of astronomy in political, economic and cultural context. Papers on astronomical heritage may deal with historic telescopes and observatories, conservation projects, and archaeological investigations of astronomical sites or buildings. All papers are refereed prior to publication. There are no page charges.

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Osterbrock Memorial Lecture

Donald Olson (left) of Texas State University, San Marcos will present the one-time Donald E. Osterbrock Memorial Lecture to the American Astronomical Society 5 January 2009 in Long Beach. The session will be sponsored by HAD with a donation made in memory of Don Osterbrock (right). The lecture will be:

Van Gogh's Starry Nights, Lincoln's Moon, Shakespeare's Stars, and More: Tales of Astronomy in Art, History, and Literature.

How do astronomical methods make it possible to calculate dates and times for Vincent van Gogh's night-sky paintings? Why is there a blood-red sky in Edvard Munch's *The Scream*? How can the 18.6-year cycle of the lunar nodes and the Moon's declination on the night of August 29-30, 1857, explain a long-standing mystery about Abraham Lincoln's honesty in the murder case known as the almanac trial? Why is a bright star described in Act 1, Scene 1, of *Hamlet*?

There is a long tradition of astronomical methods employed to analyze works of art, to understand historical events, and to elucidate passages in literature. Both Edmond Halley and George Biddell Airy calculated lunar phases and tide tables in attempts to determine the landing beach where Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 B.C. Henry Norris Russell computed configurations of Jupiter and Saturn to determine a date for a 14th-century celestial event mentioned in Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*.

In this tradition, our Texas State group has published a series of articles in *Sky & Telescope* over the last two decades, applying astronomy to art, history, and literature.

Don Osterbrock worked with us 3 years ago when my students and I calculated dates for moonrise photographs taken by Ansel Adams in Yosemite National Park. The peaks of the Sierra Nevada crest in Yosemite are more than 125 miles from Lick Observatory, but the mountains can become visible from Lick on clear winter days and were photographed from there on early infrared-sensitive plates during the 1920s and 1930s. As we tested our topographic software by identifying the peaks that appear in the Lick plates, it was a pleasure to come to know Don, a former director of Lick Observatory and the person in whose honor this talk is dedicated.

JHA Discount Offered

Michael Hoskin

In 2009 the normal private subscription to *Journal for the History of Astronomy* (four quarterly issues, about 500 pages) will be \$92 post free. The publishers invite HAD members to subscribe at the special rate of \$72 post free. Please fax a Visa or Mastercard number to +44 1638 605465, or write to Science History Publications Ltd, 16 Rutherford Road, Cambridge CB2 8HH, UK, mentioning your membership of HAD.

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Classified Ad

Classified ads may be submitted to the [editor](#) by the equinoxes for publication in the April and October issues of HAD News.

I have reserved a room for the Long Beach HAD Meeting, and would like a roommate to split the cost. Any volunteers? Through the miracle of uvulopalatopharyngoplasty, I no longer snore.

Thomas Hockey
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Bracewell Papers at NRAO

Ellen Bouton, NRAO

We are pleased to announce that the family of Ronald N. Bracewell (1921-2007) is donating Bracewell's radio astronomy papers to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory Archives. The extensive collection, to be received over the next six to eight months, will include correspondence, technical reports, publications and manuscripts, photographs and moving images, and subject files.

Bracewell was born in Sydney in 1921. He received a B.Sc. in mathematics and physics from the University of Sydney in 1941, then worked under Joseph L. Pawsey and Edward G. Bowen on development of microwave radar at the Radiophysics Laboratory of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. After World War II he received his PhD in physics from Cambridge University, then returned to the Radiophysics Laboratory where he focused on long wave propagation and radio astronomy. At Otto Struve's invitation, he lectured on radio astronomy in 1954-1955 at University of California, Berkeley, and he joined the Stanford University Electrical Engineering faculty in 1955. He retired in 1979, but continued active until his death.

At Stanford, Bracewell constructed in 1961 a 32-dish microwave spectroheliograph which automatically produced daily temperature maps of the sun for eleven years (one solar cycle). A second major radio telescope, an interferometer of five 60-ft dishes, was designed and built in 1971 to conduct solar and galactic studies.

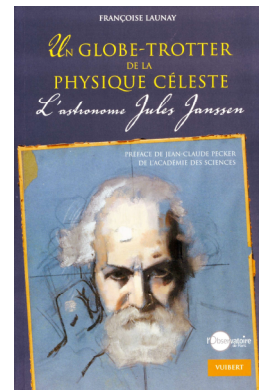
In 1955, Pawsey and Bracewell co-authored *Radio Astronomy*, the first textbook in the field. Bracewell's *Fourier Transform and Its Applications* was published in three editions and translated into tens of languages. His interest in imaging in astronomy led to his involvement in the development of computer-assisted X-ray tomography; Bracewell

was on the founding editorial board of the *Journal of Computer-Assisted Tomography*, lectured regularly on imaging, and in 1995 published *Two-Dimensional Imaging*. Bracewell's interest covered a broad range of topics outside astronomy and imaging: in 2005, for example, the Stanford Historical Society published his book on *Trees of Stanford and Environs*.

Bracewell's radio astronomy papers will be an important addition to the NRAO Archives, and we are grateful to the Bracewell family for donating this significant collection.

Researchers may access the Bracewell papers and other NRAO holdings through the NRAO Archives Web page <http://www.nrao.edu/archives/>.

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Book Review

André Heck, Strasbourg Observatory

Un globe-trotter de la physique céleste – L'astronome Jules Janssen, by Françoise Launay (Ed. Vuibert & Observatoire de Paris, Paris, 2008).

If you read French and are interested in the history of European astronomy, get this volume for yourself or your library. Launay's style is fluid and fully accessible, to specialists and non-specialists alike. The book, abundantly illustrated (all b/w), follows the life of Jules Janssen (1824–1907) who was, to say it briefly, the father of French astrophysics and the founder of Meudon Observatory. But this self-made man, not educated in one of the French *grandes écoles*, was also an inventor and a maker of spectroscopic and photographic instruments with two major scientific interests: the Sun and the Earth's atmosphere.

The context is the 19th century, when scientific expeditions became easier—as this reviewer is reminded daily by a venerable traveller now resting

not far from his office: a heliograph built by Utzschneider & Fraunhofer, that went, as a Gotha Observatory instrument, to the Kerguelen Islands in 1874 to observe a Venus transit, before changing affiliation in 1877 to the newly founded Strasbourg Observatory (then German) and going to Argentina to observe the subsequent Venus transit in 1882.

The increase of mobility applied also to people. Before the 19th century, a scientific expedition was the story of a lifetime: remember Le Gentil who left in 1760 for Pondicherry (India) to observe a transit of Venus and came back only in 1771 to discover that his possessions had been shared between his heirs as everyone thought he was dead.

One century later, transportation had dramatically improved, and scientists who had the fidgets could move around much more easily and frequently. Janssen was definitely one of them: Peru, Japan, India, Siam, Caroline Island, United States, plus closer destinations such as Algeria and other Mediterranean countries. Janssen also visited the United Kingdom frequently, nurturing friendship with a number of prominent scientists, such as J. Norman Lockyer. Janssen received quite a number of British honors and was a member of several British learned societies. Towards the end of his life, Janssen himself in return founded a number of prizes and medals (French Academy of Sciences, Société Astronomique de France, etc.).

It would be too long to detail here all the facets of Janssen's activities and achievements, from studies of the magnetic equator to those of telluric absorption in the solar spectrum, from his first observations of the 587.49-nm Helium line to his instrumental developments applied to solar eclipses and Venus transits, from his many official missions (including escaping besieged Paris in a balloon!) to his founding of observatories (Mont Blanc, Meudon), not to forget his foresight—he wrote, “the photographic plate will soon be the real retina of the scientist.” It is a shame that all but seven of his 6000 photographs of the Sun on 36-cm glass plates have been lost.

Launay's book is extremely well documented, in particular through a rich correspondence between Janssen and his wife Henriette. (Efficient postal service and the telegraph had also dramatically improved communications in the 19th century.)

A couple of appendices gather together key dates of Janssen's life and a substantial bibliography. An index of names concludes the book. Probably some readers would have liked to see a general index—and this could be a suggestion for a possible second edition. One would wish similar compilations be written with the same care and the same luxury of details for all major characters of past centuries.

In conclusion, this is a book as we like them: it reminds us that, if astronomy is a science, it is above all carried out by humans. Over the centuries, some of them have been flamboyant, remaining in history not only through their scientific achievements, but also through their daring undertakings. In the foreword of Launay's book, Jean-Claude Pecker paints a portrait of Janssen with a few brushstrokes: “physicist, inventor and constructor, mad about the Sun and travelling, ..., guided by his energy and his inquisitiveness.” *Trahit sua quemque voluptas.*

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The JAH²

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Information for potential subscribers and contributors may be found at

<http://www.jcu.edu.au/school/mathphys/astronomy/jah2/index.shtml>.

The July 2008 issue contains papers on the description of phenomena in Chinese astronomical records, Cassini's and Roemer's discovery of the velocity of light, an early drawing of the Whirlpool Nebula by Charconac, an early Portuguese book on astronomical photography, Kovesligeti's discovery of the radiation law, stellar hydrogen abundance research in the early 20th century, the history of the Stockholm observatory, and two instruments at Bologna Observatory. The November issue will, among others, contain papers on Hallerstein's astronomical work in China, Herschel's catalogue of diffused nebulosity and Hagen's clouds, Venus and its elusive moon, W.N. Christiansen and 21-cm H I line observations in Australia, and Christiansen's development of the solar grating array.

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HAD Elections

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The election will run for the month of November 2008. The preferred method to vote is via the American Astronomical Society website. Directions will be sent via e-mail to all paid-up members soon. Alternatively, you may send your votes by postal mail to the Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Joe Tenn, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. Write your choices for the three offices on a sheet of paper, and be sure to put your name and return address on the envelope.

CANDIDATES:

For HAD Vice-Chair/Chair Elect:



Bio: **Jarita C. Holbrook**'s CV reads like a standard astrophysicist's with degrees in Physics, Astronomy, and Astrophysics from Caltech, San Diego State University, and the University of California, Santa Cruz. Upon graduation she guided her career into Cultural Astronomy with an emphasis on ethnoastronomy. She specializes in researching the sky knowledge of non-scientists outside of the First World. However, this is an oversimplification since she has also studied the United States Navy and neo-Pagans in the UK, and is currently studying race, class, gender, and perceptions of equality among astronomers. Primarily, her research in the USA and the UK is on the loss of sky knowledge focusing on teasing out factors such as light pollution, education, and indoors activities at night. She is the current chair of the Cultural Astronomy and Storytelling Working Group for the 2009 International Year of Astronomy USA.

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Meeting in Long Beach

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This session marks both the quadricentennial of Lipperhey's telescope of 1608, the first documented telescope, and the inauguration of telescopic astronomy by Harriot and Galileo in 1609.

It will be held Sunday, 4 January 2009, from 2:00 to 6:00 PM, followed by discussion among those who can remain after 6:00.

Peter has selected eleven outstanding historians of science to speak in the session: Sara Schechner, Kenneth J. Launie, Geoff Chester, John Pearson, André Heck, Gary L. Cameron, David H. DeVorkin, Helmut A. Abt, Martin Harwit, Richard Jarrell, and Virginia Trimble. Read their [titles and abstracts](#) and make your reservations.

The second special session is **Photometry: Past and Present**, organized by Eugene F. Milone of the University of Calgary. The six invited lectures will take up two official sessions, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, 5 January.

The goal of these sessions is to describe and discuss the achievement of precision and accuracy in astronomical photometry from the photovisual and photographic era to the present CCD age. Both instruments and techniques will be discussed. Thus photoelectric photometers and photometry will be highlighted, especially the dual-beam instruments commonly referred to as "two-star" photometers, but developed also for use in the planetary sciences. Speakers will also describe the development of CCD photometry as a means to precise flux measurements. The importance of photometric standardization was demonstrated in May 2006 when a well-attended meeting on this topic was held in Blankenberge, Belgium, and this topic will be covered in several of the papers. Although the main purpose is to discuss the historical significance of visual photometry, the infrared will be covered in at least two of the talks.

E.F. Milone, Steve B. Howell, and Martin Cohen will speak in the morning session, and Arlo Landolt, Saul J. Adelman, and Pierre Bastien in the afternoon.

The **Donald E. Osterbrock Memorial Lecture** is the result of a one-time donation to HAD last year in memory of the former HAD chair and Doggett Prize recipient.

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HAD Elections

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Candidate Statement: My concern is that HAD is an aging organization that attracts few young members. At the same time, HAD is one of the most supportive and encouraging environments that I have ever experienced with fantastic mentors. We have a lot to offer young scholars but they have to find us first. Working with HAD members I would like to see the establishment of a HAD dissertation prize and a HAD research grant targeting graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and junior faculty. Also, I am interested in initiating a HAD oral history project that captures what astronomy culture is like during these first decades of the 21st century.

For HAD Committee:



Bio: **Kevin Krisciunas** earned his B.S. at the University of Illinois and his Ph.D. at the University of Washington, both in Astronomy. Currently a lecturer in astronomy at Texas A&M University, he does research on optical and infrared observations of Type Ia supernovae, other variable stars, and the history of 19th and 20th century astronomy.

Candidate Statement: As I tell my students, every person, as an occupant of this planet, should have some familiarity with astronomy. We can all understand that the time scale for the life and death of stars is millions or billions of years. Also, that science is not just about rocks, and stars, and clouds. It's about the people whose work led to a greater understanding of the universe and our place in it. The AAS is one of the few organizations whose members can provide the context for that understanding. This should continue. I am reminded of the inscription carved above the main door at Tycho Brahe's observatory: *Nec fasces, nec opes, sola artis scepra perennant* (neither wealth, nor power, but **only knowledge, alone, endures**).

For HAD Committee:



Bio: **Jim Lattis** earned his B.S. and M.S. in physics at the University of Louisville and then switched to History of Science, earning his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is currently the director of Space Place, the education and public outreach center of the University of Wisconsin Astronomy Department. He has served on the AAS Working Group on the Preservation of Astronomical Heritage since its formation in 2007, and is currently its chair.

Candidate Statement: I would be pleased to serve on the HAD Committee because I feel that history is of great import to the profession of astronomy for many purposes including teaching, outreach, and research.

Meeting in Long Beach

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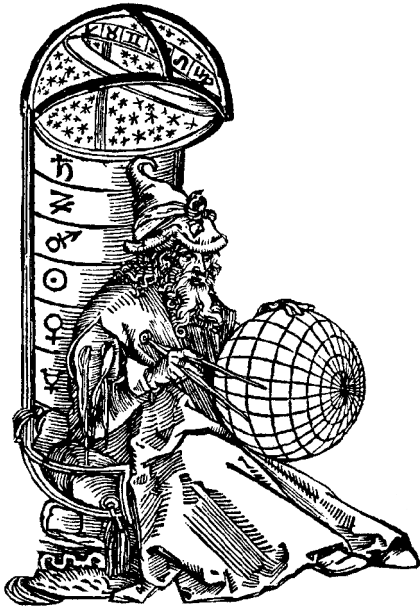
Donald W. Olson of Texas State University, San Marcos will address the entire AAS Monday from 4:30 to 5:20 p.m. on "Van Gogh's Starry Nights, Lincoln's Moon, Shakespeare's Stars, and More: Tales of Astronomy in Art, History, and Literature."

Contributed oral papers by John C. Brandt; Kevin Pang; Carol Armbruster, A. B. Hull, R.H. Koch, R. J. Mitchell, & R.E. Smith; Bradley E. Schaefer; and Thomas A. Hockey will be presented Tuesday from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Poster papers by Jarita Holbrook and Kenneth S. Rumstay will be on display Monday.

Other events: The **HAD business meeting** will be Monday during the lunch recess. All members are invited to attend and voice their views. The second **HAD Minibanquet** will be Monday evening. Keep your e-mail boxes open to messages from the HAD Secretary-Treasurer for more information.

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Historical Astronomy Division
of the American Astronomical Society

Had News #73, October 2008, edited by Joe Tenn
Please send contributions for the next issue,
comments, etc. to joe.tenn@sonoma.edu.

A complete version of this newsletter, with color
photographs and active links, may be found at the
HAD website at <http://www.aas.org/had/>

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