



# H·A·D NEWS

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

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## **Sara Schechner Wins the 2018 LeRoy E. Doggett Prize!**

*Ken Rumstay, Valdosta State University*

Once every two years the Historical Astronomy Division awards the LeRoy E. Doggett Prize to an individual who has significantly influenced our field through a career-long effort. This prize serves as a memorial to LeRoy Doggett, a renowned expert in planetary theory, archaeoastronomy, and calendars, who was an active member of HAD. The HAD Prize Committee is pleased to announce that Sara Schechner, the David P. Wheatland Curator of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments at Harvard University, is the recipient of the 2018 Doggett Prize.

Sara is a prominent member of HAD, having served as Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair between 2005 and 2011. She has also served on numerous HAD committees; during the 1990s she was a valuable member of the AAS Centennial Committee, and served as Chair of the Exhibit Subcommittee.

Sara received her PhD from Harvard in 1988, her dissertation being supervised by Owen Gingerich and I. Bernard Cohen. As the David P. Wheatland Curator of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments at Harvard (a position she has held since 2000) she acts as chief curator for early scientific instruments and related books and photographs. She has prepared numerous exhibitions and received many awards, including the Great Exhibitions Prize from the British Society for the History of Science in 2014 and the Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize from the History



Sara Schechner, winner of the 2018 LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for Historical Astronomy, poses amid the collection of antique astronomical instruments in the Harvard collection.

of Science Society in 2008. She is also widely published; her two most recent volumes are *Sundials and Time Finding Instruments of the Adler Planetarium* (Adler Planetarium, 2018) and *Tangible Things: Making History through Objects* (Oxford University Press, 2015; co-authored with Laurel Ulrich, Ivan Gaskell, and Sarah Carter).

Sara will receive her award at a plenary session of the 231<sup>st</sup> meeting of the American Astronomical Society, which will be held January 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. Please note that the meeting will begin on a Monday, rather than on Sunday (which used to be the normal starting day). The HAD meeting will begin that Monday afternoon with a special session, to be chaired by Sara, titled *The Future of Astronomy's Archived Observations – An Open Discussion*. The following day will open with a special session of twenty-minute talks on a variety of subjects, followed by the annual HAD Town Hall. Contributed oral presentations will be offered on Tuesday afternoon and, if necessary, on Wednesday morning. On Tuesday night we'll enjoy the traditional HAD "minibanquet"!

Congratulations, Sara, on this award, and thank you for your outstanding contributions to the history of astronomy! We look forward to your 2018 Doggett Prize Lecture, titled *Tangible Things of American Astronomy*!

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### From the Chair

*Patrick Seitzer, University of Michigan*

At the HAD Business Meeting in Grapevine, there started a discussion of different formats and additional locations for HAD meetings. I would like to expand this discussion by asking: what can HAD do to encourage a broader recording of history across the entire AAS? Previous Chair Jay Pasachoff has organized HAD sessions at meetings of the Division for Planetary Sciences and the Solar Physics Division. I'd like to start a discussion on how to encourage these sessions to happen on a regular basis, perhaps with financial support from the HAD. One possibility is to solicit on an annual basis proposals for such sessions from the other divisions. I'd like to discuss this further at the forthcoming AAS Winter meeting in National Harbor.



The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, site of the January 2018 AAS/HAD meeting. We met here four years ago during a time of record low temperatures; let's hope for milder weather this time!

Finally, should we do a more complete record of the history of the HAD itself? There is a lot of information on the HAD web page (record of officers, prizes, and so forth). Should we do more? Does HAD need an official historian?

I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming AAS meetings, and encourage you to send me suggestions for improving the Historical Astronomy Division.

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### From the Vice Chair

*Alan Hirshfeld, U. Mass. at Dartmouth*

It's that time of year again when those of us who teach have returned to the classroom for the autumn semester. For most of my own decades-long professional career, that has meant another iteration of my Intro Astronomy course. The course syllabus opens with a quote from I. I. Rabi's 1955 Loeb Lecture at Harvard, entitled "Science and the Humanities": "Scientists must learn to teach ... in the light of the history of human thought and human effort, rather than as the geography of a universe uninhabited by mankind." I suspect that most college astronomy courses are still taught in the standard catalogue-of-astronomical-objects format, with emphasis on physical phenomena and only passing mention of names and dates associated with crucial scientific advancements. But there are many opportunities to bring in the history of astronomy. The recent plunge of the Cassini spacecraft into Saturn provides a timely springboard for discussion of early studies of the ringed planet, including the astronomer for whom the spacecraft was named. August's nationwide solar eclipse fever, which drew some 1500 visitors to our campus viewing event, leads

to a lesson on the ancient roots of eclipse observation and prediction. And last year's detection of gravity waves offers up the tale behind its introduction, rocky start, and eventual success. Students respond to such stories of scientific exploration, especially once they recognize their own role as inheritors of all this hard-won knowledge. To paraphrase Rabi's recommendation, the goal of an introductory astronomy course is not just to teach what astronomers know, but how they came to know what they know.

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### From the Past Chair

*Marc Rothenberg, National Science Foundation*

Regarding the January HAD meeting, the HAD Mini-Banquet is on!

Where: Public House, a block from the AAS meeting, in a private room.

When: Second day of the HAD meeting, Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

Time: Tentatively, we'll start with drinks and conversation at 6:30 pm, with dinner at 7:00. We will move things back a bit to allow for a late poster session if necessary.

Menu: Choice of either  
 Crab Soup or Market Salad  
 New York Strip Steak or Vegetable Pasta  
 Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Smash  
 Non-alcoholic drinks included.  
 Cash bar.

Please let me know if you are vegan, if you suffer from any food allergies, or if you have any other questions. The cost per person will be \$62, but a reduced cost of \$42 will be offered to students and low-income individuals.

The banquet room seats only 45 individuals, so I must ask that you reserve your space by December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you decide to come after that date, we will

fit you in if we have room. To reserve your spot (and to avoid end-of-banquet thrusting of money at me) please send me a check, made out to Marc Rothenberg, at the address below; it will not be deposited until after the HAD meeting. You need not tell me your menu choice at this time!

I hope to see many of you at National Harbor. And don't forget your nominations for the 2019 Osterbrock Prize!!

Marc Rothenberg, Past Chair  
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### From the Secretary-Treasurer

*Ken Rumstay, Valdosta State University*

Greetings all! And welcome to another October, which brings crisp autumn days and clear starry nights. For some of you anyway; as I write this in my southern Georgia office the temperature is 92°F, and thunderstorms are in the forecast for tomorrow night. Thanks to all of you who wrote to see how we fared during hurricane Irma! My wife and I were very fortunate, suffering no structural damage to our home and minimal loss of trees. Others in our region were less fortunate, and the cleanup will continue for weeks to come.

The most exciting HAD News this summer was the awarding of the 2018 Doggett Prize to Sara Schechner. I would like to thank all those who submitted nominations and also the members of the Prize Committee who reviewed them. All those nominated were deserving, and it was not an easy choice. In keeping with tradition Sara will receive the prize at a plenary session at the January AAS meeting, after which she will deliver her Doggett Prize Lecture titled *Tangible Things of American Astronomy*.

As Marc mentioned, it's time to start soliciting nominations for the 2017 Donald E. Osterbrock Prize! Nominations may be proposed by any Member or Affiliate Member of HAD, and must be received by March 1, 2018. To be eligible for the Prize a book must have been published between 2014 and 2017, and the book must have been published in English! Further information regarding the prize may be found on our website at [https://had.aas.org/awards\\_and\\_prizes/osterbrock\\_book\\_prize](https://had.aas.org/awards_and_prizes/osterbrock_book_prize).

I hope to see you all at the meeting in January!

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### Pollock Award to Teresa Wilson

*Ken Rumstay, Valdosta State University*

In the mid-1990's the Dudley Observatory in Schenectady established its Herbert C. Pollock Award to recognize the long service rendered by Dr. Pollock, a past President of its Board of Trustees. According to the observatory website (<http://dudleyobservatory.org/>) the purpose of the Award is to "provide encouragement and support for an innovative project in the history of astronomy or astrophysics, to be undertaken by a faculty member, research associate, or post-doctoral associated with a college, university, nonprofit research institution or observatory located in North America."

We are delighted to report that Teresa Wilson, a graduate student at Michigan Technological University, received a Pollock award this spring! Teresa of course writes the monthly column *This Month in Astronomical History* for the American Astronomical Society; her columns may be viewed at <https://had.aas.org/resources/astro-history>.

Congratulations, Teresa; well done!

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### The AAS Oral History Project

*Jarita Holbrook, University of the Western Cape*

HAD members, the Oral History Project has completed 171 interviews with AAS members, astronomy support communities, and students. Each transcript is around 12,000 words covering two hours of interview. We are asking HAD members to help the project by reading through transcripts of the interviews and making corrections in terms of dates, spelling, and locations. If you have time available to read through and correct just one interview, we would be grateful. Please contact Jim Lattis for more information ([jim.lattis@gmail.com](mailto:jim.lattis@gmail.com)).

Our schedule sheet is already online for AAS 231 at National Harbor. If you are planning to attend please consider signing up to be interviewed at <http://tinyurl.com/AAS231Oral>. We have not had an opportunity to interview many HAD members!

Thank you, and I'll see you all at National Harbor in January 2018!

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### The Thirteenth Notre Dame History of Astronomy Workshop

*Pedro M. P. Raposo, Adler Planetarium*

Every other year in July, all roads lead to the campus of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana, where the Notre Dame Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop has been hosted for twenty-four years now. Since 1993, the workshop has attracted scholars of all levels and interests in the history of astronomy, including graduate students and independent scholars, who get together to engage in stimulating exchanges and discussions covering virtually every topic in the field, and all periods of history.

The Thirteenth Notre Dame Biennial Workshop in the History of Astronomy (NDXIII), held 5-9 July this year, brought together about sixty participants from ten countries. The general theme of the meeting was "Models and Mechanisms in the History of Astronomy." The keynote speaker, Professor Emeritus Michael G. Edmunds of Cardiff University, kicked off the meeting with an engaging public lecture titled "The Antikythera



Folks attending the Thirteenth Notre Dame Biennial Workshop pose in front of the Adler Planetarium

Mechanism and the Mechanical Universe.” The works started in earnest the next day with another presentation by Edmunds, this time on “Astronomical Mechanism in Greece, Rome, and the Modern World.” The general theme of the meeting was directly addressed in this and several other presentations, but other topics are always welcome. Throughout the workshop, delegates also had the chance to hear and discuss papers related to Ancient and Medieval astronomical texts, the history of observatories, the standardization of time, and the early development of astrophysics, among other subjects.

The ND workshop also welcomes discussion on the teaching of the history of astronomy, and, more generally, on the state-of-the-art and the future of the field. Two great examples this year were a session dedicated to the teaching of the Extraterrestrial Life Debate, and a panel suggestively titled ‘Pathways and footwear for the next generation,’ in which renowned historians of astronomy and younger scholars shared views and experiences from their careers, launching a debate on the future of the profession.

Following a longstanding tradition, NDXIII included a day trip to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. The program at the Planetarium included two paper sessions illustrated with rare books and historical artifacts from the Adler’s world-class collections. Thus workshop participants were able to take a close look at the oldest telescope located outside of Europe (dated c. 1630), see a 1485 edition of Regiomontanus’s *Calendarium*, and examine other remarkable items. In the remainder of the day, delegates also had the chance to visit the Doane Observatory, attend a sky show, and learn about the Adler’s online research resources. The program at the Planetarium was aptly closed by keynote speaker Prof. Mike Edmunds, who did not give a lecture this time, but instead performed his delightful one-man play about Isaac Newton, “Sir Isaac Remembers....”

Other social programs throughout the meeting included a reception in the home of workshop organizer, Dr. Matthew Dowd, and his wife Amy Dowd, who kindly opened their doors to all conference participants; an observing session at the Notre Dame Observatory; and, of course, the conference dinner. The Notre Dame Workshop favors collegiality and informal exchange as much as traditional academic discussion, and it was clear in the well-attended business meeting at the end of



About sixty astronomers and historians attended the meeting. Here, they mingle at a reception at Notre Dame University



One of several engaging lectures presented at the workshop.

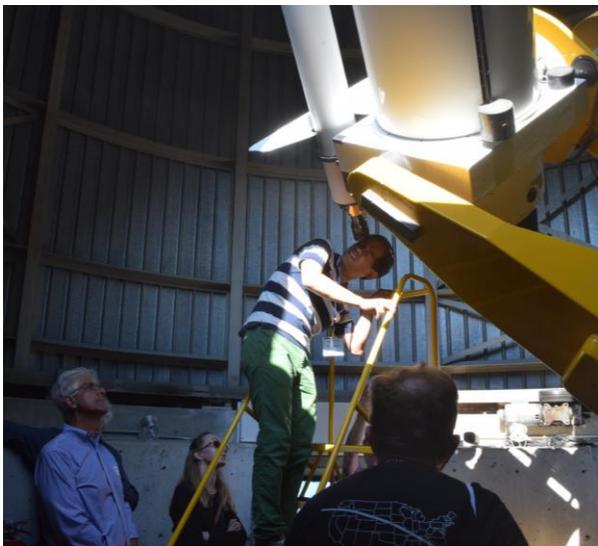


Meeting attendees view the wonderful collection of rare books and astronomical artifacts at the Adler Planetarium

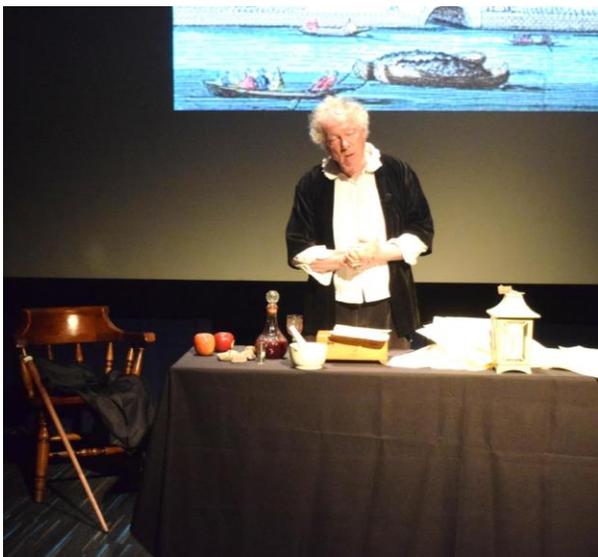
the workshop (which is open to every delegate) that all of the above had been, once again, successfully accomplished.

If you do not want to miss the XIV Notre Dame History of Astronomy Workshop, mark your calendar - 19-23 June 2019 at Notre Dame University, including a day trip to the Adler Planetarium as usual. For updates on NDXIV and information on past workshops, visit <https://www3.nd.edu/~histast/index.shtml>. I hope to see you in South Bend and Chicago!

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Meeting participants had an opportunity to view the Sun using the telescopes of the Adler Planetarium's Doane Observatory.



A highlight of the meeting was Professor. Michael Edmunds' performance of his one-man play, "Sir Isaac Remembers...."



## Once Again in the Shadow of the Moon: Two Historical Commemorations of the 1900 Total Solar Eclipse Expeditions to South Carolina

*Tom English, Guilford Technical Community College, and Kristen Thompson, Davidson College*

During the spring of 1900, American astronomers mobilized to send eclipse parties to numerous stations along the path of totality for the 28 May total solar eclipse of that year. The path, stretching from New Orleans to Norfolk, intersects the path of the 21 August 2017 eclipse in South Carolina, and two of the major 1900 stations, in the towns of Newberry and Winnsboro, fell under both shadows. In fact, no other major eclipse expedition sites from the other significant nineteenth century eclipses on American soil in the astrophysical era (7 August 1869, 29 July 1878, 1 January 1889) lie within the 2017 path of totality. These circumstances presented a special opportunity to commemorate the 1900 eclipse expeditions during the 2017 eclipse. Our programs sent modern expeditions to participate in public outreach viewing sessions in conjunction with the eclipse commemorations in each town: Guilford Technical Community College travelled to Newberry, and Davidson College (with assistance from Guilford College) went to Winnsboro.

### The Newberry, SC, Expeditions

There were two major expeditions to Newberry in 1900. The U. S. Weather Bureau party was led by two astronomically-inclined giants of early American meteorology, Cleveland Abbe and Frank Bigelow. They were accompanied by Walter S. Harshman (USNO), Roberdeau Buchanan (Nautical Almanac Office), and James Page (U.S. Hydrographic Office). A second group from the Brooklyn Academy of Arts and Sciences was led by astronomy popularizer and science fiction pioneer Garrett P. Serviss, and included Charles



US Weather Service hydrologist Leonard Vaughan, in historical garb, at his meteorological station in Newberry.

Lembke, Wallace Gould Levison, and J. Otis Wattles. Page joined the Brooklyn astronomers to observe at a site about a mile north of town, while the rest of the Weather Bureau party observed the eclipse in central Newberry at the property of the local doctor, W. G. Houseal.

Abbe and Bigelow had traveled with the U.S. expedition to West Africa for the 22 December 1889 eclipse, but clouds spoiled their view of totality. The sudden transformation of blue skies to clouds that day would inspire an ongoing area of study for Bigelow and Abbe, eclipse meteorology.

During the three years leading up to the 1900 eclipse, Bigelow used a network of observers to collect meteorological data along the path of totality, and this data informed the American astronomers in their station choices. (Newberry was one of the stations in this effort.) Bigelow's Newberry eclipse expedition report takes up the first chapter of his book, *Eclipse Meteorology and Allied Problems*, published in 1902.

To establish a modern observing party to mirror the 1900 effort, we partnered with hydrologist Leonard Vaughan and meteorologist Hunter Coleman from the Columbia, SC office of the National Weather Service, to establish a station at the Houseal house, with permission of current owners Warren and Elizabeth Page. Vaughan dressed in period clothing as he conducted meteorological observations for the duration of the eclipse. The Weather Service report is online at <http://www.weather.gov/cae/newberryeclipse.html>.

In the days before the 1900 eclipse, the visitors shared their meteorological and astronomical expertise with the locals. "The lectures at the opera



Newberry County Library Director Sam Ziady with part of the series of displays marking the 1900 exhibitions.

house Saturday night by the government scientists, Prof. F. H. Bigelow and Prof. Cleveland Abbe, were enjoyed by the large audience who was out to hear them."<sup>1</sup> The town of Newberry was a NASA-designated eclipse site in 2017, and the Opera House was a focus of their local eclipse festival, and hosted several programs on eclipse day and the weekend before.

The Library in Newberry played a pivotal role in establishing this year's commemorative effort. We worked with Library Director Sam Ziady to develop a display of sketches, letters, and other documents related to the 1900 expeditions, courtesy of the Cleveland Abbe Papers at the Archives of The Johns Hopkins University Library, and in early August the library invited one of the authors of this article (English) to give a lecture about eclipse expedition history and the 1900 eclipse. Observers at both of the 1900 Newberry stations made corona sketches using a special template, some of which were displayed at the library this year. Copies of a replica template were distributed to onlookers at this year's event, so that they could make their own sketches.

Mirroring the post-totality exodus of 2017 Newberry eclipse festival attendees, the Brooklyn Astronomers in 1900 were "busy packing up their instruments as soon as the eclipse ended" and left town so quickly that the local paper couldn't catch them for interviews.<sup>2</sup> Serviss was featured in many other newspaper articles across the country in the days immediately following the eclipse, and promised interesting results from his group, but their plates did not survive the trip home, and no further report was published.

### The Winnsboro, SC Expeditions

On 29 March 1900, a committee of Winnsboro town dignitaries composed a letter addressed to Charles Greeley Abbot at the Smithsonian Institution to invite him to observe the upcoming 28 May total solar eclipse from their town. The letter boasted that the town “has telegraphic communication with the world...[and] is situated in a section of country which is singularly free from atmospheric disturbances in the spring of the year.”<sup>3</sup> Abbot declined the invitation, deciding instead to view the eclipse from Wadesboro, NC. However, Ormond Stone, director of the McCormick Observatory at the University of Virginia, decided that Winnsboro would be an ideal location for his eclipse expedition, likely after receiving a similar invitation. The expedition led by Stone was joined by several astronomers including Jas. A. Lyon, Jr., Everett O. Eastwood, J. Walter Mayo, Herbert R. Morgan, and Charles P. Olivier, of the University of Virginia; Jas. A. Lyon, Sr., of Southwestern Presbyterian University; and Henry Louis Smith of Davidson College. A second observing station, shown in the image below just after totality, was established across town by Professor Witherow of Winnsboro’s Mt. Zion Institute.

Several events were organized for the days leading up to the eclipse to prepare the community for the event. In collaboration with the Fairfield County Museum and Historical Society, Thompson (one

of the authors of this article) created a series of commemorative events to celebrate the 21 August 2017 eclipse in a historically significant way.

Prior to the 1900 eclipse, the local newspaper notified readers that through Witherow, “an opportunity will be given the citizens of the community to enjoy an hour’s study in preparation for the observation of the eclipse.”<sup>4</sup> To parallel this historical event, Thompson held a professional development workshop for teachers and community leaders, during which interactive strategies for bringing the eclipse science into classrooms and the community was discussed.

On 25 May 1900 Robert Prentiss of Rutgers College delivered a public lecture in the Winnsboro courthouse entitled ‘The Sun and the Coming Eclipse.’ According to the local paper, “the admission fee will be 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. The first twenty dollars of the proceeds will go to Prof. Prentiss and the balance to Mt. Zion Library.”<sup>5</sup> Following this example, Thompson presented a lecture by the same title the evening before the eclipse, requesting donations of 25<sup>c</sup> and 10<sup>c</sup> from those in attendance to forward to the Fairfield County Library.

In addition, an exhibit was created at the Fairfield County Museum to commemorate Winnsboro’s role in the 1900 eclipse and illustrate the state of astronomy in the early 1900s through photographs. The site of Stone’s original 1900 observing station



This photograph, courtesy of the Fairfield County Museum, shows the 1900 eclipse observing station of Professor Witherow and company. An ‘x’ has been marked over Professor Witherow’s head.

could not be well determined from historical records, but the location of Witherow's station was found to be in the back of a local cemetery. The cemetery has expanded since 1900, making it impossible to hold a public event at the same location. However, a NASA Official Viewing Location was established by Thompson at a baseball field immediately adjacent to the original site. With help from students and faculty from Davidson College and Guilford College, this event provided free eclipse glasses, snacks, games, crafts, and interactive educational activities for an estimated 2000 – 3000 guests on 21 August and astronomical artifacts. Photographs of a few of the exhibits at the museum are shown below.

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#### References

- 1 Newberry Herald and News, 29 May 1900, p. 3.
- 2 Newberry Observer, 31 May 1900, p. 1.
- 3 J. W. Hanahan, J. W., to Abbot, C. G. (29 March 1900), Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 31, Office of the Secretary, 1891-1906, Incoming Correspondence.
- 4 Fairfield News and Herald, 5 May 1900, p. 3.
- 5 Fairfield News and Herald, 23 May 1900, p. 3.

## Fate of the Swarthmore Telescope

*Ken Rumstay, Valdosta State University*

In our last issue we noted that a STEM group had submitted a proposal to relocate and restore the historic 24-inch refractor at Swarthmore College. We are happy to report that the proposal, submitted by Supporting STEM and Space Inc. (a nonprofit organization based in northwestern Arkansas), has been accepted! Swarthmore College has formally donated the telescope through an agreement reached on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

“We are very excited to be bringing such a large telescope to Northwest Arkansas, where we plan to use it as the centerpiece for a STEM recruitment-related facility with a planetarium and observatory in Northwest Arkansas,” said Katherine Auld, chairman of the board of directors of the organization. Swarthmore College will pay for disassembling and loading the telescope for shipment, while Supporting STEM and Space must bear the estimated \$20,000 cost of moving the telescope to its new site.

I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say that I am immensely relieved that this historic telescope has been saved from destruction! Look for more details in our next issue.

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Photos of a portion of the eclipse exhibit at the Fairfield County Museum, including a 1900-era telescope ( at left) on loan from Davidson College.

## Some Holiday Gift Suggestions

Ken Rumstay, Valdosta State University

Traditionally (and because we still provide print copies to a few members), each issue of the HAD News consists of an even number of pages. If needed, I've no objection to filling any unused space with a variety of diverse items!

The holidays are nearly upon us, and many of us may be looking for gifts which will encourage children's interest in the stars. I am indebted to former HAD Chair Jay Pasachoff for letting me know of a wonderful gift he found last year. He writes:



“The "Stargazer Lottie" doll comes with a foldout paper (sponsored by ESA) with brief bios and small pictures of "Notable Women in Astronomy": Caroline Herschel, Maria Mitchell, Henrietta Swan Leavitt, Annie Jump Cannon, Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin, Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Claudia Haigneré (first French woman in space, the first female ESA astronaut), and Caroline Porco. Some small cards with planet images are also included. Lottie herself comes with a refracting telescope on a stand and is \$24.95 plus shipping.”

“I bought three: one for each set of grandchildren and one for myself; I'll show it to my ASTR 101 class.”

For further information on Stargazer Lottie, go to <http://www.lottie.com/collections/all/products/star-gazer-lottie?variant=1216553939>. Thank you Jay!

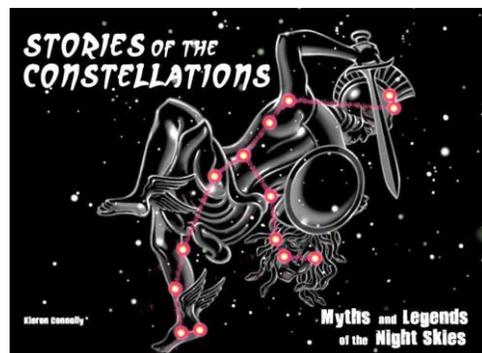
In the AASWomen Newsletter for October 20<sup>th</sup> Nicolle Zellner informed us of another gift item, this one from Lego. The “Women of NASA” set will be available for purchase on November 1<sup>st</sup>. According to the description on the Lego website (<https://shop.lego.com/en-US/Women-of-NASA-21312>),

“Explore the professions of some of the groundbreaking women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with the LEGO® Ideas Women of NASA set. It features minifigures of 4 pioneering women of NASA—astronomer and educator Nancy Grace Roman, computer scientist and entrepreneur Margaret Hamilton; astronaut, physicist, and entrepreneur Sally Ride; and astronaut, physician and engineer Mae Jemison—and 3 builds illustrating their areas of expertise. Role-play space exploration from planning to moon landing, beginning with the iconic scene from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1969 of Hamilton with software that she and her team programmed. Build the posable Hubble Space Telescope and launch a LEGO version of the Space Shuttle Challenger with 3 removable rocket stages. The set also includes a booklet about the 4 featured women of NASA, and the fan creator and LEGO designers of this delightful and educational set.



Of course, books make the best gifts of all! One I would like to bring to your attention is *Stories of the Constellations: Myths and Legends of the Night Skies* by Keiron Connelly (2014, Scholastic Press, ISBN 978-0545652056). Retelling forty classic myths and legends of the night sky, this book is suitable for ages ten and up.

Best wishes to you all for a joyous holiday season!





### Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society

HAD News #90, October 2017, edited by Ken Rumstay. Please send contributions for the next issue, comments, etc. to [hadsec@aaas.org](mailto:hadsec@aaas.org).

A complete version of this newsletter, with color photographs and active links, may be found at <https://had.aas.org/sites/had.aas.org/files/HADN90.pdf>

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