



THE ICHA NEWSLETTER
NEWSLETTER OF THE INTER-UNION COMMISSION FOR
HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY

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The four most recent IAU C41 Presidents: Steven J. Dick (triennium 1997-2000), Suzanne Débarbat (triennium 1991-1994), S. M. Razaullah Ansari (triennium 1994-1997), F. Richard Stephenson (triennium 2000-2003), current President of the ICHA. (Courtesy of S. J. Dick)

A. ICHA Conference on "Astronomical Instruments and Archives from the Asia-Pacific Region": Call for Papers

An international conference on "Astronomical Instruments and Archives from the Asia-Pacific Region" will be held in Cheongju, Korea, from 2 to 5 July 2002 to commemorate the inauguration of the Nha Il-Seong Museum of Astronomy.

This Conference is organised by IAU Commission 41 and the newly-formed Inter-Union Commission for History of Astronomy (ICHA), and will constitute the

first formal conference and meeting of the ICHA. In Korea, the Conference will be sponsored by the City of Cheongju, the Korea Astronomy Observatory and the Ministry of Science and Technology. Meanwhile, the following Scientific Organising Committee has been set up:

Professor Il-Seong Nha (Korea: Chairman), Professor Richard Stephenson (UK: Deputy-Chairman), Dr Wayne Orchiston (Australia: Secretary), Dr Christine Allen (Mexico), Dr Suzanne Débarbat (France), Dr Kwan-yu Chen (USA), Dr Steven Dick (USA), Professor Alexander Gurshtein (Russia), Dr Bambang Hidayat (Indonesia), Professor Rajesh Kochhar (India), Dr Lui Ciyuan (China), Dr Tsuko Nakamura (Japan), Professor Boonraksar Soonthornthum (Thailand).

The program will include paper sessions, C41/ICHA business meetings, a city tour and a visit to the Korea Astronomy Observatory, one or two dinners and a banquet. For the paper sessions we are seeking papers about individual or small groups of related archives or historic astronomical instruments that are either from, or relate to, the Asian region, any of the Pacific nations, or American countries that have Pacific Ocean coastlines. Most of those selected by the SOC to deliver papers will be assigned 20-30 minutes (including question time); other titles offered will be accepted as poster papers. If you would like to offer a paper, please forward your title and abstract to all three under-signed by 2002 April 30, or to either Il-Seong Nha (The Nha Il-Seong Museum of Astronomy, San-133 Gamcheon-myon, Yechon-gun, Kyungbuk 757-910, Korea) or Wayne Orchiston (Anglo-Australian Observatory, PO Box 296, Epping, NSW 2121, Australia) if using ordinary airmail.

The plan is to publish all papers in a conference proceedings, and Professor Nha and Drs Débarbat and Orchiston have agreed to serve as co-editors.

This Conference will be held in the city of Cheongju, which is 128km south-east of Seoul. Cheongju has an international airport, and is also accessed from Incheon International Airport (with a connecting shuttle bus). Accommodation will be in tourist hotels, with a nightly room rate of between US\$50 and US\$70 depending on the number of bookings. The Conference registration fee is US\$100 if paid by 2002 May 1 and US\$120 thereafter. This fee includes a copy of the conference proceedings, the welcome banquet and one or two dinners, the city tour and the Observatory excursion. There is a registration fee of US\$70 for accompanying guests.

For further details please consult the Conference Web site: <http://www.nhamuseum.org/conference2002> . This contains a registration form, plus travel and accommodation details. Those seeking additional information should contact Professor Nha.

We look forward to seeing a good turnout of C41/ICHA members at this Conference, our last before the Sydney General Assembly in July 2003.

Il-Seong Nha (SLISNHA@chollian.net)

Richard Stephenson (f.r.stephenson@durham.ac.uk)

Wayne Orchiston (wo@aaoepp.ao.gov.au)

B. Up-date on the July 2003 IAU General Assembly

As you all know, the next IAU General Assembly is scheduled for 2003 July 14-26, at the Entertainment Centre in downtown Sydney, Australia's largest and most dynamic city, and an exciting history of astronomy program is planned.

Since the report in the inaugural *ICHA Newsletter* there have been a number of developments. More specifically, the Joint Discussion has been extended from one day to one and a half days, and we have planned the Archives and Historical Instruments Working Group Meetings so that they complement rather than clash with the July 2002 Korean Conference on "Astronomical Instruments and Archives from the Asia-Pacific Region." Finally, as part of the overall GA program we are trying to arrange two historical field trips, one to Sydney Observatory and Windsor Observatory (founded by Australia's foremost nineteenth century astronomer, John Tebbutt), and the other to the Dover Heights and Fleurs field station where pioneering radio astronomy was carried out during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. The radio astronomy field trip is linked to the Science Meeting on early Australia radio astronomy, which Commission 40 (Radio Astronomy) has agreed to co-sponsor.

So, here is the final "History of Astronomy Package" that will be submitted to the IAU Executive Committee and the Sydney 2003 Local Organising Committee next month:

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|---|---------------------|
| Joint Discussion ('The Southern Sky in Historical Perspective: From Indigenous Astronomies to Super-Telescopes'): | One and a half days |
| Business Meeting #1 (C41/ICHA AGM): | Quarter-day |
| Business Meeting #2 ('National Reports'): | Half-day |
| Education Meeting ('History of Astronomy Education'): | Quarter-day |
| Science Meeting #1 ('Applied Historical Astronomy'): | Half-day |
| Science Meeting #2 ('The Early Development of Australian Radio Astronomy'): | One day |
| Science Meeting #3 ('Recent Research'): | Half-day |
| Working Group Meeting #1 ('Archives'): | Half-day |
| Working Group Meeting #2 ('Astronomical Chronology'): | Half-day |
| Working Group Meeting #3 ('Historical Instruments'): | Half-day |
| Working Group Meeting #4 ('Transits of Venus'): | Half-day |

This is an ambitious program that covers much of the two weeks of the GA and our aim is to provide for all research tastes, but I must stress that there is no guarantee that the IAU Executive Committee will approve all of our sessions. Nevertheless, my hope is that every astronomical historian attending the Sydney meeting will, if they wish, be able to actively discuss their recent research, either through a verbal presentation or a poster paper.

Inspired by the success of the Sydney Olympics, the ICHA/C41 Organising Committee is planning the best GA ever in terms of history of astronomy, and we ask you to mark July 2003 in your diary now.

Wayne Orchiston (C41 Program Co-ordinator)

C. History of Astronomy within the XXI International Congress of History of Science

On July 8-14, 2001, the XXI International Congress of History of Science convened in Mexico City, the capital of the United Mexican States and one of the most populated and most historically acclaimed cities of the world. The Congress was organized and managed by the Division of History of Science (DHS), an autonomous and self governing constituency of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS).

The state of affairs within the IUHPS/DHS is not broadly known to the astronomical community, and it would make sense to fill this gap. Younger than the IAU, the IUHPS/DHS had its ancestral body in the informal International Academy of History of Science. The latter came into existence in 1928 in Oslo, when a group of scholars decided that the interdisciplinary field of history of science should be institutionalized. Stimulated by this informal Academy, in 1929, the first International Congress of History of Science premiered in Paris. Before WWII, three more International Congresses were arranged (London, 1931; Portugal, 1934; and Prague, 1937).

After the forced interruption in research activity due to WWII, in 1947 the International Union of History of Science (IUHS) was set up; it joined the family of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) founded earlier in 1931. The newly-established Union sponsored the Fifth (Lausanne, 1947), Sixth (Amsterdam, 1950) and Seventh (Jerusalem, 1953) International Congresses. It is worthwhile to mention that to the best of my knowledge, the 7th Congress was the first event of such kind treated as being important and commemorated with a postage stamp by the Post Administration of the host country (Israel).

As a sister union of the IUHS, in 1949, the International Union of Philosophy of Science (IUPS) appeared, but was not immediately recognized as a part of ICSU. It was not until 1956 that both the IUPS and the IUHS were firmly urged by the ICSU to merge into a single Union, and the IUHPS was instituted with its two separate Divisions: the DHS and the Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (DLMPS). Despite this formal unity, each Division had its own membership and organizational structure. They have always organized their congresses on their own, the timing being such that DHS and the DLMPS international congresses alternate at two-year intervals. The International Academy of History of Science remained a separate body.

The Moscow IUHPS/DHS Congress (1971) saw the definite institutional separation between the IUHPS and the International Academy of the History of Science. The Academy, which, unlike the IUHPS, maintained personal membership became a corporation of distinguished scholars and was playing, in an unofficial capacity, the role of adviser to the Union. The Union continued to stay without individual members, but only as a unity of national representatives along with envoys of other international scientific bodies. The rating of the Union remained high: the

Moscow Congress, as well as the Bucharest Congress of ten years later (1981), were distinguished with commemorative postage stamps.

Back to our day. In 2001, the General theme of the Mexican Congress was “Science and Cultural Diversity.” The official list of participants counted about 700 names. Among mathematical, physical, chemical, and other topics, the history of astronomy was broadly represented, too. Central in this respect were Symposium SC1 “Astronomical Heritage of Non-European Cultural Areas”, organized by S.M.R.Ansari, Il-Seong Nha and Marco A. Moreno Corral; Symposium SC5 “20th-Century Physics: Disciplinary and Cross-disciplinary perspectives”, organized by R.H.Stuart and H.Kragh; and Symposium SC21 “The Medieval Nexus: Scientific Transmission Within and From Islamic Lands”, organized by J.Samso and J.Ragep. Within these symposia, many remarkable presentations were delivered, some of them very broad in interest. But astronomical issues were not restricted to these three symposia; they were represented in a number of others, such as, to name just a few, symposia S24 “Science, Religion and Culture” (organized by J.Staune, Interdisciplinary University of Paris) and S34 “Typological Parallels in Pre-Modern Sciences” (organized by V.Dorofeeva-Lichtmann, CNRS, France, N.Lofovsky, University of Colorado, and A.Volkov, USA).

Along with many scientific and business meetings, great benefits for the attendees of the Congress were cultural options that are so abundant in Mexico City. Among the great number of churches, diverse museums, and historical sites stood out particularly the ancient pyramids near the city, Diego Rivera’s murals inside the modern Palacio Nacional (the ceremonial center for Mexico’s president), the ruins of the Zona Arqueologica del Templo Mayor, Museo Nacional de Antropologia, Museo de Arte Moderno, and such an unusual place as Leon Trotsky’s home in Coyoacan where he was murdered by the order of Joseph Stalin.

Two business sessions of the IUHPS/DHS General Assembly, at which a number of administrative issues were resolved, took place during the course of the Congress. One of the more noticeable issues was the coordination of activities of the DHS and historians of astronomy within the IAU, the issue having a precedent character. The serious difficulty consists in that while the IAU has individual membership, as it was stated above, the DHS does not possess such membership. As a result, all Commissions within the DHS have office bearers but no official membership. So, there is absolutely no criterion to distinguish professionals from superficial amateurs.

In their lobby conversations, some participants claimed that a sovereign scientific union like the IUHPS/DHS has the right to a sovereign Commission that would be totally independent from the IAU. Criticizing the IAU with its quota restrictions on individual memberships, this claim was actively promoted by Prof. Ansari. In his eyes, individual IAU membership severely restricts access to resources to non-IAU members, even if they are prominent historians of astronomy but not professional astronomers. The opposite viewpoint that the current leadership of C41 shares consists of the commitment to the closest possible links between the IAU and

the IUHPS/DHS via the activation of an Inter-Union Commission with a broader scope.

It is necessary to admit that both stated viewpoints have a right to exist and both contain some positive and negative aspects. In the end, the absolute majority of the General Assembly leaned in favor of tight cooperation between the two international bodies, which was expressed in the total support for the Inter-Union Commission for History of Astronomy (ICHA). After the Mexican Congress, the ICHA as a significant IUHPS/DHS precedent really became a matter of fact. Due to the specifics of the internal structures of the two unions, the work of this Inter-Union Commission will be based mainly on C41 (see technicalities in the 2001 ICHA Newsletter # 1).

To find a balance between the two above mentioned opinions, the second business meeting of the IUHPS/DHS General Assembly brought into being one more commission of the DHS on the history of ancient astronomy. Prof. Ansari as a strenuous proponent of this idea and the author of the proposal received the mandate to serve as the Chair of the newly established Commission. However, the General Assembly approved no foundational document for this Commission. In the same way, the borderline between this Commission and the existing ones appeared to be not very clearly demarcated.

Among other organizational issues were the election of new member countries and the selection of the venue for the next Congress. The latter caused obvious excitement among the delegate voters. There were two well-prepared and well-substantiated proposals for Budapest, Hungary, and Beijing, People's Republic of China. Solid considerations were voiced for each of the two venues, and, until the last moment, the result of the voting remained absolutely unpredictable. Finally, on the same day as the announcement came that Beijing will be the capital of the 2008 Olympic Games, the participants of the IUHPS/DHS General Assembly, by tiny margin, elected Beijing as the venue for the next International Congress of History of Science, which will be held after four years in 2005. The former 2nd Vice-President of the DHS, Turkey's Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu took over as the new DHS President, while Prof. Juan José Saldana, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Mexican Congress, was elected as IUHPS/DHS General Secretary, replacing in this capacity Dr. Robert Halleux of Belgium.

As the official representative of the IAU Commission 41 at this Congress, I am glad to state that, in my opinion, this Congress was a success for all scholars in our field of research.

A. Gurshtein

D. International Symposium "Tycho Brahe and Prague: Crossroads of European Science"

The symposium on the history of science in Rudolphine period was organized by the Research Center for the History of Sciences and Humanities in Prague, 22-25

October 2001, on the occasion of 400th anniversary of Tycho Brahe's death (24.10.1601).

Over 70 historians of science from 13 countries participated and presented about 40 oral contributions and several posters. The contributions dealt with different topics related to the life and work of Tycho Brahe himself as well as to other relevant problems.

An introduction into the questions about Tycho's personality was given in talks by Owen Gingerich (Tycho Brahe: Observational Cosmologist), John R. Christianson (Tycho and Sophie Brahe: Gender and Science in Early Modern Denmark), Jole R. Shackelford (Causality in Tycho Brahe's Philosophy), Adam Mosley (Tycho Brahe and John Craig: The Dynamic of a Dispute), Gunther Oestmann (Tycho Brahe's Attitude towards Astrology and his Relations to Count Heinrich Rantzau), Michel-P. Lerner (Tycho Brahe Censured) and Gerhard Betsch (Michael Mastlin (1550-1631) and his Relationship with Tycho Brahe).

Tycho's observational work was studied in contributions by Yas Maeyama (On Tycho's Stellar Observations. An Accuracy Test), Giorgio Strano (Testing Tradition: Tycho Brahe's Instruments and Praxis), Carlo Triarico (Tycho Brahe and Egnazio Danti. Instruments and Astronomical Research in Praha and Florence at the End of the Sixteenth Century), Mara Miniati (Medicean Telescopes. The Collection of the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza, Florence), Volker Bialas (Kepler as Astronomical Observer in Prague), Felix Luhning (The Great Quadrant of Lindholm - an Astronomical Instrument from the Time of Tycho Brahe) and Joseph P. McEvoy (Tycho's Accuracy, Kepler's Laws and Newton's Principia).

Next session was devoted to the Czech astronomical background for Tycho's work in Prague: Josef Smolka (Tycho Brahe's Briefwechsel mit Thaddaeus Hagecius), Beatriz Porres de Mateo (Astronomy at Prague University in the XVth Century: the Case of John of Gmunden and the Diffusion of Astronomical Tables from Prague), Alena and Petr Hadrava (Tycho Brahe and Iohannes Sindel) and Ivan Stoll (Giordano Bruno to Divine Rudolph II).

The contributions related to the history of arts were dedicated to the broader context of Rudolphine period: Andrea Bubenik (Art, Astrology and Astronomy at the Court of Rudolf II), Beket Bukovinska (Scientifica in der Kunstkammer Rudolfs II) and Eliska Fucikova (The Belvedere in Prague as Tycho Brahe's Musaeum).

Tycho's books and handwritings were discussed by Giancarlo Truffa (The First Printed Edition of Tycho's 1004 Star Catalogue), Owen Gingerich (Tycho Brahe's Library), Jiri Kroupa (Brahe's work *Astronomiae Instauratae Mechanica*), Martin Solc (Bibliotheca Tychoniana - Books from Tycho Brahe's Possession in the National Library of the Czech Republic in Prague Clementinum) and Zdislav Sima (On Tycho's Handwriting).

The influence of Tycho on his followers was discussed by Vladimir Urbanek (The Comet of 1618 and Political Prognostications), Georg Schuppener (Tycho Brahe's Planetary System and the Jesuits), Alain-Ph. Segonds (Un lecteur de Tycho au XVIIe siecle: Hevelius) and Robert Warren (Tycho Brahe and the Early Royal Observatory).

The participants of the symposium were acquainted with the excavations on Hven (Jens Vellev: Tycho Brahe and Hven - Paper and Books). Interesting topics were introduced also by Michal Simunek (Bericht uber die Untersuchung der Gebeine Tycho Brahe), Bohdana Bursikova (Physicians at the court of Rudolph II) and Jan Munzar together with Jan Parez (Tycho Brahe: a Meteorologist).

An overview of astronomy in Charles University was given in a series of contributions by several other local Prague participants: Michal Svatos (Teaching of Astronomy at the Prague University), Borek Neskudla (Astronomy and Astrology at Prague University before the Battle at White Hill) and Martin Solc (Astronomy at Prague University in the Baroque Time and in 19th Century).

In the poster session were presented these subjects: Franz Pichler (An Unknown (?) Poem by Johannes Kepler on Occasion of the Marriage of Nicolaus Meissner and Margaretha Rumlin, Lauingen, Winter 1608), Luisa Pigatto - Valeria Zanini (Tycho Brahe and the Republic of Venice: a Failed Project), Gudrun Wolfschmidt (The Observatories and Instruments of Tycho Brahe) and Alena and Petr Hadrava (Instruments of the Renewed Astronomy).

The contributions will be published in the proceedings from the symposium, in the series 'Acta Historica Astronomiae', publishing house Harri Deutsch Verlag.

The lectures were held in the historical building of the Prague Charles University, in the so called Patriotic hall where Christian Doppler presented his effect for the first time. Social events organized in the framework of the symposium were also chosen to complete the picture of life-style in Tycho's epoch (e.g. the exhibition of Tychoniana in the National library in Clementinum, excursion to the castle Benatky nad Jizerou where Tycho worked, as well as the concert of chamber music on the courts of Frederic II and Rudolph II).

The symposium culminated at October 24 when the Memorial evening opened to the public was arranged at the Tyn church where Tycho is buried. The Renaissance organ and trumpet music and the recitation of Latin verses (both in Latin and in Czech translation) by Tycho and his friends were interpreted by top Czech artists.

Further information is available on the web-page <http://stelweb.asu.cas.cz/tycho/tbsymp.htm>, questions could be answered on the e-mail address had@sunstel.asu.cas.cz.

Alena Hadravova - Petr Hadrava

E. The 4th International Conference on Oriental Astronomy (ICOA4)

The 4th International Conference on Oriental Astronomy (ICOA4) was held from 19-24 August 2001 in Nanyang, Henan Province, P.R. China. About 120 participants from Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America spent the week discussing recent research on topics of Oriental astronomy ranging from calendars and catalogues, to instruments and exchange of ideas. In addition there was a special symposium to celebrate the work and life of Zhang Heng, a first century (latter Han period) scientist, sage, artist and civic official who came from the Nanyang region.

Given the variety and range of topics presented, it would be impossible for any reviewer to do justice to all of the presentations in a short summary. But to not mention any of the talks would deprive readers of the true flavor of the conference. I have therefore chosen to summarize just a handful, knowing that I cannot mention many fine presentations; I hope that all of the speakers I have left out will understand and not feel offended.

The conference began with sessions on calendar making. M.T. Edalati (University of Ferdowsi, Mashhad, Iran) discussed some of the difficulties in defining the Moslem lunar calendar. E.-H. Lee (Korea University, Seoul, Korea) and K.-Y. Chen (University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA) presented the results of their work on determining the first day of the year in Chinese calendars based on "xia zheng" (summer). By mathematically analyzing the day of the new moon in "zheng yue" (the first month of the lunar calendar) from Chinese annals, they find a number of periodicities, and are able to conclude that the average celestial longitude for "li chun" (the vernal equinox) is close to 315 degrees. K. Locher (Zurich University, Switzerland) compared and contrasted some of the work on constellations in Ancient Egypt with that of China, noting the importance of ritual and religion in Egypt.

The session on star catalogues and atlases included several presentations concerning maps on Japanese tomb ceilings. Analyses are still continuing, but this may prove an important source of new information in the future. A. Bandyopadhyay (Birla Institute, Calcutta, India) gave a stimulating discussion on the zero point of celestial longitude in ancient India. The Hindu astronomers did not like the fixed stars to shift in longitude (as caused by precession), so they chose as their origin, a fixed point on the ecliptic. Some of the consequences of this were explained.

In the area of instrumentation, T. Nakamura (National Astronomical Observatory, Tokyo, Japan) talked on the introduction and early use of octants and sextants in Japan in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It was interesting to hear how the principles of their operation were initially poorly understood, a situation only remedied by the translation of a Dutch handbook into Japanese. For nearly a century, the instruments were more widely used in Japan for surveying than navigation. H.E. Schmidt (Nurnberg, Germany) presented a survey of some of the astrolabes in the museum in Nurnberg. These included beautiful examples of Arabic origin.

Turning now to the exchange of astronomical information between East and West, L.-C. Yao (Institute of History for Natural Sciences, CAS, Beijing, PRC) explained how Fr. Emmanuel Diaz wrote a book ("Tianwenlue") explaining western astronomy to late Ming scholars. Another Jesuit astronomer, Ignatius Koegler, who spent the second half of his life at the Qing court in Beijing, also had influence on the course of Korean astronomy. I.-S. Nha (Nha Il-Seong Museum of Astronomy, Kyungbuk, Korea) described Koegler's work, especially as it impacted the development of Korean astronomy, and discussed two recently restored folding-screen star maps produced in the mid-eighteenth century by Korean astronomers in collaboration with Koegler. Finally, Y. Ohashi (Tokyo, Japan) gave a fascinating account of early cosmological models in China, how they developed into more mathematical models, and of early attempts to measure their parameters.

The penultimate session of ICOA4 was a General Assembly to discuss the organization and future of these triannual meetings. It was decided that ICOA5 should be held in 2004 in Teheran, Iran. The composition of the ICOA Working Committee was discussed, and committee members were selected for 2001-2004. Finally, mention should be made of the nonscientific activities organized by the LOC. In addition to two excellent banquets, these included excursions to the Zhang Heng Museum, located next to his grave, to the Zhang Zhongjing Museum, to the Ancestral Temple of Wu Hou, and to the Treasure House of Han Carved Stone Relief.

We are all grateful to our hosts for organizing a wonderful conference.

(text by Richard Strom, from: <http://www.astro.ufl.edu/~chen/icoa1.htm>)

F. General History of Astronomy Project

Volume 1 was under the editorship of Olaf Pedersen, whose efforts went increasingly into building the Steno Museum in Aarhus. While some excellent articles were commissioned and written, he did not complete his own on Ptolemy and the Almagest, which was particularly frustrating when he found time to write a piece for the British Museum volume, *Astronomy before the Telescope*. That volume profited from the emergence in the meantime of highly qualified younger scholars who were tapped to write chapters, and it did not have the burden of trying to enlist a truly international roster of authors. The appearance of that volume, and Pedersen's death, essentially doomed GHA volume 1. Several salvageable chapters subsequently appeared as long articles in the JHA.

Volume 3 was being handled differently in that the General Editor, Michael Hoskin, proposed to write it himself based on small sections solicited from a wide number of contributors. When Cambridge University Press asked him to work on the Cambridge Illustrated History of Astronomy and on the Concise History, his efforts were diverted and he began to feel that the GHA was no longer a viable project.

Volume 4B, under my editorship, was derailed when the late Bengt Stromgren failed to produce his chapter on stellar interiors; I simply realized too late that he was one of the world's great procrastinators. There were other problems as well, of a variety of sorts, and though many of them were eventually sorted out, my own time got side-tracked to other projects. This volume is very much on my conscience because I have a substantial number of excellent manuscripts, though some would need serious updating, and the volume is by no means complete. Cambridge University Press is certainly willing to publish if I can turn in a satisfactory volume.

O. Gingerich

Chairman, Editorial Board, General History of Astronomy
(text from a note sent to HASTRO-L on November 23rd, 2001)

G. The History of Australian Radio Astronomy

For more than fifty years Australia has been a world leader in radio astronomy. As historic old radio telescopes lie abandoned and some of our pioneering scientists

leave us, the history of Australian radio astronomy has never been a more pressing research challenge. Fortunately, a number of recent initiatives have been addressing this issue.

While groups at the Universities of Sydney and Tasmania have made important contributions to radio astronomy, most of the early developments were associated with the Division of Radiophysics of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. From the late 1940s and throughout the 50s and early 60s, Radiophysics maintained a number of scattered field stations centred mainly on Sydney, where solar, planetary, galactic and extra-galactic projects were pursued with a fascinating variety of radio telescopes. The most important of these field stations were situated at Dapto, Dover Heights, Fleurs and Potts Hill, and early in 2001 a program of site visits was initiated in order to determine what (if anything) is left of the radio telescopes that once graced these locales. As a natural development of this project a start has been made on researching the contributions made by some of these radio telescopes, and a short paper on the 80-ft Dover Heights "hole-in-the-ground" antenna (built in 1951) will be published in January 2002.

Another notable development during 2001 was my appointment as archivist at the Australia Telescope National Facility. The ATNF evolved out of the old Division of Radiophysics, and now owns a unique photographic collection that provides a splendid visual document of Australia's on-going involvement in radio astronomical research. Recently the collection was moved to a purpose-built room with appropriate environmental control, and for the past six months I have been systematically working my way through the ~50,000 images in the collection, identifying instruments and personnel, and transferring documentation to an electronic database. In addition, more than 1000 of the most historically-important images have been scanned and are in an image-library database, and as funding becomes available many more images will be added. Further information about the collection is included in a four-page article that appeared in the most recent issue of the *ATNF News*.

One of Australia's best-known astronomical instruments is the 64m Parkes Radio Telescope and on 2001 November 1 a half-day research seminar was held on site to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the dish's opening. Since a longer seminar and associated book accompanied the 30th anniversary, the aim of the 40th celebrations was to highlight important scientific contributions made with this instrument during the last ten years.

In order to bring some of Australia's radio astronomical heritage to the general public, Helen Sim and I prepared an exhibition titled "The People of Parkes", which was displayed at the 2001 Parkes Open Day and then some weeks later at the Open Day held in Sydney at the ATNF headquarters. This photographic exhibition focussed on various people associated with the 40-year history of the Parkes Radio Telescope, including scientific and technical staff, politicians, and NASA groups associated with the Apollo missions.

The Parkes radio telescope has also been the focus of attention for one of the students enrolled in the Master of Astronomy course offered over the internet by the University of Western Sydney. In 2001 I have been teaching the double unit on

"Topics in the History of Astronomy", and in addition to on-going coursework all students are required to prepare an essay on the history of a notable observatory and carry out a longer research project. For his project, one of the 35 students has investigated the history of Hydrogen-line studies at Parkes, with some discussion of the earlier work carried out at the Potts and Murraybank field stations.

These developments and other research that will be carried out over the next year or so are ideal forerunners to the Commission 40-41 Science Meeting on "The Early Development of Australian Radio Astronomy" that is scheduled for the 2003 General Assembly in Sydney.

Wayne Orchiston (ICHA/C41 Secretary)

H. Journals and Publications

✓ **Journal for the History of Astronomy**

All the following are in *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, volume 32, 2002:

- **Bradley E. Schaefer**: The Latitude of the Observer of the *Almagest* Star Catalogue, pages 1-42
- **Barbara J. Becker**: Visionary Memories: William Huggins and the Origins of Astrophysics, pages 43-62
- **Beatriz Porres and José Chabás**: John of Murs's *Tabulae Permanentes* for Finding True Syzygies, page 63-72
- **Bernard R. Goldstein**: Before the Sun in the Church, page 73-77
- **Donald E. Osterbrock**: Herman Zanstra, Donald H. Menzel, and the Zanstra Method of Nebulae Astrophysics, pages 93-108
- **Paolo Palmieri**, Galileo and the Discovery of the Phases of Venus, page 109-129
- **Bernard R. Goldstein**, Kepler and Hebrew Astronomical Tables, pages 130-136
- **Glen Van Brummelen and J. L. Berggren**: Abū Sahl al-Kūhī on the Distance to the Shooting Stars, page 137-151
- **Sara Schechner**: The Material Culture of Astronomy in Daily Life: Sundials, Science, and Social Change, pages, 189-222
- **Jerzy Dobrzycki**: Notes on Copernicus's Early Heliocentrism, page 223-225
- **Robert S. Westman**: Kepler's Early Physical-Astrological Problematic, page 227-236
- **James R. Voelkel and Owen Gingerich**: Giovanni Antonio Magini's "Keplerian" Tables of 1614 and Their Implications for the Reception of Keplerian Astronomy in the Seventeenth Century, page 237-262
- **Joann Eisberg**: Making a Science of Observational Cosmology: The Cautious Optimism of Beatrice Tinsley, pages 263-278
- **Bruce Stansfield Eastwood**: Johannes Scottus Eriugena, Sun-centred Planets, and Carolingian Astronomy, pages 281-324
- **Bradley E. Schaefer**: The Transit of Venus and the Notorious Black Drop Effect, pages 325-336

- **Tom J. York:** An Analysis of Close Conjunctions Recorded in Ancient China, pages 337-344
- **Bernard R. Goldstein and José Chabás:** The Maximum Solar Equation in the Alfonsine Tables, page 345-348
Archaeoastronomy Supplement
- **Juan Antonio Belmonte:** On the Orientation of Old Kingdom Egyptian Pyramids, pages S1-S20
- **Victoria R. Bricker:** A Method for Dating Venus Almanacs in the Borgia Codex, S21-S44
- **Michael Hoskin and colleagues:** Studies in Iberian Archaeoastronomy: (8) Orientations of Megalithic and Tholos Tombs of Portugal and Southwest Spain, pages S45-S64
- **César Esteban and colleagues:** Orientations of Pre-Islamic Temples of Northwest Africa, S65-S84

together with Notes, Essay Reviews, Book Reviews and Obituaries.

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✓ **Culture and Cosmos**

Papers published in the last twelve months:

Volume 4 no. 2, Autumn/Winter 2000

- **David J. Ross:** The Bird, The Cross, And The Emperor: Investigations into The Antiquity of The Cross in Cygnus pp. 3-28
- **Angela Voss:** The Astrology of Marsilio Ficino: Divination or Science? pp. 29-46.
- **Patrick Curry:** Astrology on Trial, and its Historians: Reflections on the Historiography of 'Superstition' pp. 47 -56.

Volume 5 no. 1, Spring/Summer 2001

- **Demetra George:** Manuel I Komnenos and Michael Glykas: A Twelfth-Century Defence and Refutation of Astrology, Part I, pp 3-48.
- **Richard L. Poss:** Stars and Spirituality in the Cosmology of Dante's Commedia, pp. 49-66.

Editor: Nicholas Campion, 51 Bellevue Crescent, Bristol BS8 4TF, UK.

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Abstracts of papers up to Vol 4 no 2 are on the Web site:

<http://www.CultureAndCosmos.com>

Nicholas Campion

✓ **Acta Historica Astronomiae**

This series of history of astronomy books, published by Verlag Harri Deutsch at Frankfurt am Main, started in 1998. A description of the series and of the first four

volumes was given in the IAU Comm. 41 Newsletter in June 1999. Since then, the following titles appeared (if not indicated otherwise, the texts are in German):

Vols. 5, 10 and 13 comprise the next issues of the yearbook "Beitraege zur Astronomiegeschichte" (Contributions to the History of Astronomy) with research papers, short contributions, obituaries and book reviews. Some single papers are in English.

Vol. 6, "Treasure-Hunting in Astronomical Plate Archives", contains the proceedings of an international workshop held at Sonneberg Observatory in 1999. The papers (all in English) discuss the scientific potential of the world's photometric and astrometric plate archives, ways of making them fully available to scientific research, as well as technical problems connected with this.

Vol. 7 collects papers on Erhard Weigel (1625-1699), mathematician and astronomer.

Vol. 8 summarizes 300 years of astronomy in Berlin and Potsdam, including a review article, research papers, a comprehensive bibliography and a list of memorial places for astronomers in the region.

Vol. 9, "The Role of Visual Representations in Astronomy: History and Research Practice", contains the papers (all in English) of a colloquium held at Goettingen in 1999, discussing the role of images of all kinds (drawings, photographs, spectra, maps, diagrams, etc.) in the history of astronomy.

Vol. 11 presents papers on occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Great Refractor - the fourth largest in the world - in Potsdam. It contains also Hermann Carl Vogel's report on a tour to England, Scotland and Ireland in the year 1875.

Vol. 12 gives the first monographic biography of the astronomer Franz Xaver von Zach (1754-1832), written by Peter Brosche. It is based on a large number of published and archival sources and is well illustrated, partly in colour.

More information including Tables of Contents and English abstracts and on how to order is available at <http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrosche/aa/acta/> or from the series editors (Wolfgang R. Dick, e-mail: wdi@potsdam.ifag.de, and Juergen Hamel, c/o Archenhold-Sternwarte, Alt Treptow 1, D-12435 Berlin, Germany, e-mail: jhamel@astw.de).

Wolfgang R. Dick

Books

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- **Heck, A. (ed.)**, 2000. *Organizations and Strategies in Astronomy*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 221 pp., ISBN 0-7923-6671-9.
- **Heck, A. (ed.)**, 2001. *Organizations and Strategies in Astronomy II*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 280 pp., ISBN 0-7923-7172-0.

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- **Olson R. J. M. and Pasachoff J. M.**, 1999. *Fire in the Sky: Comets and Meteors, the Decisive Centuries, in British Art and Science*, Cambridge University Press, 369 pp. ISBN 0 521 66359 8.
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- **Steele, J. M.**, 2000. *Observations and Predictions of Eclipse Times by Early Astronomers*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 336 pp., ISBN 0-7923-6298-5.

Some research papers by C41/ICHA members - 1999/2001

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I. News

/// CSHPS Annual Conference, Call for Papers

The Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS) is holding its annual conference at the University of Toronto, 26-28 May 2002. The program committee invites historians, philosophers and other scholars of the social sciences and humanities to submit paper, panel or session proposals. The proposals and papers may be in English or French, and should have a title, a brief abstract of 150 to 250 words, and the complete information for correspondence. Proposals must be received by 31 January 2002 and may be sent by e-

La Société canadienne d'histoire et philosophie des sciences (SCHPS) tiendra sa réunion annuelle à l'Université de Toronto les 26, 27 et 28 mai 2002. Le comité organisateur invite les historiens, les philosophes et les autres chercheurs des sciences humaines et sociales concernés par l'étude de la science à soumettre un projet de communication, de session ou de table ronde. Les projets doivent comporter un titre, une brève description de 150 à 300 mots et les coordonnées de correspondance. Les projets doivent être transmis avant le 31 janvier 2002 à l'un ou l'autre des

mail, fax or post to one of the members of the program committee.

We strongly encourage email submissions. Information about Congress registration and accommodation can be found at the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada web site.

Please note that the CSHPS meeting, which takes place as part of the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities, overlaps with the meeting dates of a number of other societies: History of Medicine (24-26 May), the Canadian Philosophical Association (May 25-28), the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics (May 24-26), and the Canadian Historical Association (May 27-29). The CSHPS program committee welcomes suggestions for joint sessions with these and other societies.

Programme Web Site:

http://www.er.uqam.ca/nobel/r20430/schps_toronto_2002/

Société canadienne d'histoire et de philosophie des sciences :

<http://www.ukings.ns.ca/cshps/>

Congrès de la Fédération des sciences humaines et sociaux du Canada: <http://www.hssfc.ca/>

Programme Committee / *Comité de programmation* :

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membres du comité organisateur par courriel, télécopieur ou poste.

Nous encourageons fortement la soumission des projets par courriel. La Fédération des sciences humaines et sociales du Canada (FSHSC) assume la responsabilité de l'inscription et de l'hébergement des participants.

Organisée dans le cadre du congrès de la FSHSC, la réunion de la SCHPS se tient en même temps que celles d'autres sociétés savantes, dont la Société canadienne pour l'histoire de la médecine (24-26 mai), la Société canadienne de philosophie (25-28 mai), la Société canadienne d'histoire et de philosophie des mathématiques (24-26 mai) et la Société historique du Canada (27-29 mai). Le comité de programmation de la SCHPS accueillera favorablement les projets de séances conjointes avec ces sociétés.

Site du programme:

http://www.er.uqam.ca/nobel/r20430/schps_toronto_2002/

Société canadienne d'histoire et de philosophie des sciences :

<http://www.ukings.ns.ca/cshps/>

Congrès de la Fédération des sciences humaines et sociaux du Canada: <http://www.hssfc.ca/>

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/// HOPOS Fourth International Congress, Call for Abstracts

Fourth Congress of the International Working Group in History of
Philosophy of Science, Montreal, Canada, June 21-23, 2002

The International Working Group in History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) will hold its fourth international congress in Montreal, Canada, June 21-23, 2002. The congress is being held in cooperation with Concordia University, McGill University, the Université de Montréal, and the Université du Québec à Montréal. The conference is open to scholarly work in French or English on the history of philosophy of science from any disciplinary perspective.

Submissions of abstracts, in French or English, of papers of approximately 30 minutes' reading length, and of symposia of three to four thematically related papers will be considered for the program.

Plenary speakers: François Duchesneau (Université de Montréal) and Don Howard (University of Notre Dame)

Guidelines for Submissions: Abstracts of individual paper submissions should be between 250 and 500 words in length. Panel proposals should include one panel abstract, names and contact addresses of all participants, and abstracts of 250

Le groupe international de recherche HOPOS (History of Philosophy of Science) tiendra sa quatrième rencontre à Montréal, du 21 au 23 juin 2002, en coopération avec l'Université Concordia, l'Université McGill, l'Université de Montréal et l'Université du Québec à Montréal. La conférence accueillera des travaux en langue anglaise ou française portant sur l'histoire de la philosophie des sciences, toutes les approches disciplinaires étant les bienvenues.

Le Comité de programme vous invite à soumettre, en français ou en anglais, un résumé de communication d'une durée de 30 minutes environ, ou à proposer un panel réunissant trois ou quatre communications ayant trait à un thème commun.

Conférenciers invités: François Duchesneau (Université de Montréal) et Don Howard (Université Notre Dame)

Directives pour la soumission des résumés et des propositions de panel: Les résumés de communication doivent comporter entre 250 à 500 mots. Les propositions de panel doivent inclure un résumé du panel, les noms et

words for each of three to four papers. All submissions should arrive by 1 January 2002.

Notification of acceptance of submissions will be provided by 1 March 2002. Preferred format for all submissions is plain ASCII text or RTF attachment submitted by electronic mail to hopos2002@arts.ubc.ca with "HOPOS 2002 Submission" in the subject line of the email. Other submissions should include one paper copy and one copy in plain ASCII or RTF format on a 3.5" DOS diskette and be sent to:

Alan Richardson, Co-Chair,
HOPOS 2002 Program Committee
Department of Philosophy
1866 Main Mall - E370
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
CANADA

Program Committee for HOPOS 2002/
Comité d'organisation du programme:

Emily Carson, Co-Chair,
(McGill University)
Alan Richardson, Co-Chair,
(University of British Columbia)
Roger Ariew (Virginia Polytechnic
Institute and State University)
John Beatty (University of Minnesota)
Claudine Cohen (Ecole des Hautes

Local Arrangements and Registrar:

Andrew Wayne, Concordia University

les adresses courantes des participants, ainsi qu'un résumé de 250 mots de la communication de chacun des intervenants du panel. La date limite pour soumettre un résumé de communication ou une proposition de panel est le 1er janvier 2002.

Les avis d'admission au congrès seront envoyés d'ici le 1er mars 2002. Les résumés seront de préférence envoyés par courrier électronique, en pièce jointe (format ASCII ou RTF) à hopos2002@arts.ubc.ca, avec pour sujet "HOPOS 2002 Submission". On pourra aussi faire parvenir une copie sur papier du résumé, en incluant une copie sur disquette 3.5" DOS (format ASCII ou RTF), à l'adresse suivante:

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Comité d'organisation du
programme HOPOS 2002
Département de Philosophie
1866 Main Mall E370
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
CANADA*

Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris)
Nadine de Courtenay (Conservatoire
National des Arts et Métiers, Paris)
Lisa Downing (University of
Illinois at Chicago)
Jean Leroux (University of Ottawa)
Eric Lewis (McGill University)
Margaret Schabas (York University)

Organisateur local et registraire :

Andrew Wayne, Concordia University

The International Working Group in History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) is an international society of scholars who share an interest in promoting research on the history of the philosophy of science and related topics in the history of the natural and social sciences, logic, philosophy, and mathematics.

We interpret this statement of shared interest broadly, meaning to include all historical periods and diverse methodologies. More information about and a membership form for HOPOS are available at <http://scistud.umkc.edu/hopos>.

HOPOS, sigle du groupe History of Philosophy of Science, est une association internationale qui cherche à promouvoir la recherche en histoire de la philosophie des sciences ; le groupe s'intéresse aussi aux questions philosophiques touchant à l'histoire des sciences naturelles, des sciences humaines, de la logique, de la phi-losophie et des mathématiques.

Cette déclaration d'intérêts de l'Association est conçue de façon large: elle englobe toutes les périodes historiques de la science et l'ensemble des différentes méthodologies. De plus amples renseignements sur le groupe HOPOS et sur la possibilité de devenir membre sont disponibles sur le site <http://scistud.umkc.edu/hopos>.

/// 2003 Notre Dame History of Astronomy Workshop

The Sixth Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop will be held at the University of Notre Dame on June 19-22, 2003. Please mark your calendars. The organizers will issue a call for paper and session proposals beginning next summer. If anyone wishes to help in organizing the next workshop, please contact Matthew.F.Dowd.11@nd.edu.

Steven J. Dick

/// African Ethnoastronomy Conference

The Centre for Advanced Humanities and Social Research in collaboration with the Institute for Basic Research at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, will be hosting an international conference on "Ethnoastronomy in the West African Sub-Region" from 8-11 May 2002.

For further information refer to the Conference Web site at: www.hartrao.ac.za/conferences/ethno2002/ethno2002a.html or contact the organiser, Johnson Urama on johnson@hartrao.ac.za

/// LISA IV - Library and Information Services in Astronomy

The 4th meeting Library and Information Services in Astronomy will take place in Prague from July 2 to 5, 2002. This meeting will be hosted by the Astronomical Institute Charles University Prague.

The meeting will be held in Karolinum, in the historical buildings of the Charles University in the city center of Prague. The conference Blue hall hosting up to 200 people and a smaller room for poster presentation, will be available.

LISA IV will cover a wide variety of topics centered around the theme: "Emerging and Preserving: Providing Astronomical Information in the Digital Age".

On-line information can be found on the web page: <http://lisa4.cuni.cz>

Session IV will concern "Preservation and History of Astronomy" (topics: Historical literature and its use in research, Available online resources, Preservation of observatory publications).

The proceedings will be published by the United States Naval Observatory. The speakers are required to bring their camera-ready papers to the conference, to guarantee a timely publication of the proceedings.

Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC):

L. Bryson (Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Corp.), co-chair

F. Genova (Observatoire de Strasbourg, France), co-chair

R. Albrecht (Germany), P. Binfield (Netherlands), B. Corbin (U.S.A.), G. Eichhorn (U.S.A.), B. Gertner (Poland), U. Grothkopf (Germany), C. Louis (India), B. Madore (U.S.A.), V. Mata Acosta (Mexico), E. Potter (Russia), M. Wolf (Czech Republic).

Conference Secretariat: Carolina, Ltd., "LISA IV",

Address: Albertov 7/3a, 128 01 Praha 2

E-mail: lisa4@carolina.cz, Phone: +420-2-2499 0828, +420-2-2499 0811

Fax: +420-2- 2491 8681

/// Al-Magella al-Falakyya: the first Western magazine for history and popularization of astronomy in Arabic language

In 1997 the Italian Astronomical Society (SAIt) decided to publish an Arabic language edition of its popular magazine, *Giornale di Astronomia*. Just in memory of a past shared culture and as an homage to its ancient cradle, the Mediterranean Sea, the SAIt choose the language of Averroës, Avicenna and al-Farghani, giving to this new magazine the title of *Al-Magella al-Falakyya* (i.e. *The Journal of Astronomy*).

The Italian Astronomical Society (www.sait.it) is the oldest astrophysical society in the world, having been founded in 1871 with the name of *Società degli Spettroscopisti Italiani* (*Italian Society of Spectroscopists*) by Angelo Secchi (1818-1878) and Pietro Tacchini (1838-1905) among the others.

In addition to the old and glorious *Memorie della Società Astronomica Italiana*, which today publishes proceedings of conferences, more than 25 five years ago, in 1975, SAIt started to edit the *Giornale di Astronomia* (www.bo.astro.it/sait/giornale.html). The aim was to meet information and updating requirements of its own members - astronomers, amateur astronomers and school teachers - and to use it as a carrier to spread astronomy through review papers on great astrophysical themes, essays on history of sciences and discussions on astronomy teaching methods and programs. The magazine publishes not only translations from the Italian edition, but even original contributions specially made by

Arabic astronomers from different countries: Morocco, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Palestine. In the thirteen issues published till now, some papers come from Arabic scholars and researchers, and some from USA, Canada and even China, besides the ones from Italians.

Popular astrophysical papers are published together with papers on history of astronomy and with essays on relations between astronomy, art, literature, religion, philosophy: to say in one word, it deals with cultural problems related to astronomy, like the Italian edition. Once a year maps of the sky and astronomical phenomena calculated for latitudes of Arabic language countries are published.

The magazine is distributed by SAIt to a wide number of astronomical and scientific institutions in these countries, to Italian cultural institutions in that countries and even to Arabic cultural institutions and associations in Europe. Of course it is sent also to individuals subscribers.

The Italian Astronomical Society hopes that this activity could continue to be useful and pleasant for our Arabic language readers and co-operators, as it is till now widely shown by the many contacts and invitations the Society received by Arabic language countries.

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/// International Commission for History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy: an Announcement*

The 21st International Congress of History of Science (ICHS) was held in Mexico, July 8–14, 2001. The Congress was sponsored by the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS), which in turn is adhered to UNESCO through the International Scientific Union (ICSU). ICHS is held every fourth year. The next Congress will be held in China in 2005. As a matter of fact, ICHS is organised with the help of a large number of symposia and meetings of its scientific sections. At the

* After the IUHPS Congress in Mexico City, Professor Ansari turned to a number of publications in the field of history of astronomy with a request that they publish the above article. As our Newsletter aims to disperse relevant information to the entire history of astronomy community we felt that it was our duty to publish this article immediately as an item of significance. However, those who are interested in a more complete and detailed account of the Mexico City Congress should also refer to the report published earlier, on pages 5-7, which was prepared by Alex Gurshtein, the IAU's official representative at the Congress.

Richard Stephenson (C41/ICHA President)
Alex Gurshtein (C41/ICHA Vice-President)
Wayne Orchiston (C41/ICHA Secretary)

21st Congress, 67 symposia were organised, 28 sectional meetings and 4 special sessions. More than 1000 historians of science contributed in the Mexico Congress.

The international community of historians of science can not become individually members of the IUHPS. Its constitution allows only countries (through national committees) and history of science associations/academies as members. At present, 49 countries adhere to it. For the individual historians of science, there are a number of historical commissions, that are a sort of working-groups of specialised research fields, and the members of which interact among themselves. For instance, there are 11 historical commissions before the Mexico Congress. At the General Assembly (GA) of IUHPS (i.e. the business meetings of the Executive Council and General Body of IUHPS), which is held at each ICHS, the presidents of the *Historical Commissions* are also elected, besides the election of the Executive Council. Proposals of *new* commissions are also approved at GA. At the 21st ICHS in Mexico two *new* commissions were created, namely, *Commission for the History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy* (President, S.M. Razaullah Ansari, Aligarh /India), and *Commission for the History of Science and Cultural Diversity* (President, Paulus Gerdes, Mozambique).

The proposal for the creation of the *Commission for the History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy* (CHAMA) was moved by Prof. S.M.R. Ansari. He stated the rationale underlying the proposal of this commission as follows:

"The main aim and objective of this Commission is to bring under its purview research in the *astronomical heritage of all cultural areas* of the world. This idea is in consonance with the theme of this 21st Congress, namely, *Science and Cultural Diversity*. As historians of science, we know that astronomy was the most significant science during the ancient and medieval period. The majority of the world historians of astronomy are expert not only of astronomy, but they are also scholars of *classical* languages: Chinese, Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Arabic and Persian etc., in the sources of which enormous amount of astronomical data is locked in. For these historians of astronomy particularly a *forum* is required, so that its members could interact among themselves, and acquaint themselves particularly with the work-in-progress of their colleagues. To achieve this end, this Commission is proposed."

The President wishes to organise under this Commission a Symposium at the 22nd ICHS (China), in 2005. Further, this Commission intends to publish a *Newsletter*, under the Editorship of Prof. Ansari, and Ms. Anne Tihon, the Secretary of the Commission, who is a well-known historian of Greek astronomy.

It may be mentioned that Prof. S.M.R. Ansari is a former Professor of Physics at Aligarh Muslim University (Aligarh / India). He had been very actively engaged in the field of History of Science for the last few decades. He had been President of the IUHPS Commission for Science & Technology in the Islamic Civilisation (1993-97), and also of the IAU Commission for History of Astronomy (1994-97). Under the auspices of the latter, he organised a Symposium on "*History of Oriental Astronomy*",

which was held in Kyoto (Japan), in Aug.1997. He has edited the *Proceedings* of this Symposium,, which will be published by Kluwer Academic Publisher (Dordrecht/The Netherlands). It is expected in the summer of 2002. Further, In his capacity as the **President** of the IUHPS–IAU Inter–Union Commission for History of Astronomy (for the period 1997-2001), he organised at the Mexico Congress a Symposium: "*Astronomical Heritage of the Non-European Cultural Areas*", which was held on July 11–12, 2001.The Symposium was chaired by Prof. Ansari, at which 22 historians of astronomy from all over the world presented their talks. The Proceedings of this Symposium is also intended for publication.

The Commission requests all historians of astronomy to register themselves and to send the President / Secretary information regarding their work–in–progress, publications and news item for the *Newsletter*. For contact e-mail addresses are:

Raza.Ansari@gmx.net, Raza.Ansari@vsnl.com , and tihon@ori.ucl.ac.be.

Postal Addresses:

of the President: Roshan Villa, Muzammil Manzil Compound, Dodhpur, Aligarh 20002, INDIA. Tel. +91-571-703952, fax: 400466.

of the Secretary: Université Catholique de Louvain, 28 rue Ferme du Coq, Court-St-Etienne, 1490, BELGIUM.

S. M. R. Ansari

/// **The C41 Web Site Up-date**

Since the last report, the membership list at the C41 web site (<http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrosche/iaucomm41/>) has again been updated, and pages for the C41 Working Groups have been created. New links to history of astronomy resources on the Internet have been added and some old links have been updated. Several thousand links which still need to be checked out (mentioned in the last report) were added in the form of lists of "unsorted and roughly sorted links".

Unfortunately, changes to web addresses and additions have been too numerous to keep track of. I again received a large number of messages with updates and additions. My apologies for the delay in managing these. All contributions will be regarded, but this will take some time.

Wolfgang Dick (C41 Webmaster)

/// **History of Astronomy Newsletters**

The printed newsletter "*Mitteilungen zur Astronomiegeschichte*", published since 1992, contains short articles, announcements of new books, conferences and exhibitions, lists of anniversaries, and other information from all fields of history of astronomy. The texts are mostly in German, some are in English. All but the last issues are now available online as PDF files (easily readable with the free Acrobat Reader which comes with new web browsers or may be downloaded) at <http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrosche/aa/ma/> . All English contributions, English

translations of selected German announcements, and numerous English texts not contained in the printed newsletter, are available in simple text format in the "Electronic Newsletter for the History of Astronomy", available at

<http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrosche/aa/enha/> or by e-mail. Please contact the editor for a free subscription to the electronic newsletter or for back issues at wdi@potsdam.ifag.de.

Wolfgang R. Dick

/// History of Astronomy Internet Discussion Lists

📧 OLDSCOPE

The 'oldscope' email list consists of 130 people, and is the email platform of the Antique Telescope Society, but not limited to members. Discussions are limited to topics related to the history of the telescope. To join, one must sign up at 'yahoo': <http://groups.yahoo.com>

The Antique Telescope Society is an international society whose purpose is to unite colleagues interested in historical astronomical telescopes, binoculars, books and related items; and to promote the membership's interests in astronomical history & discovery, the history of optics and the preservation and use of these instruments through stewardship and education.

Peter Abrahams

📧 HASTRO-L

HASTRO-L (The History of Astronomy Discussion Group) deals with matters rising in research and teaching of the history of astronomy in all cultures, all periods, and using all approaches including social history, the philosophy of science, archeo- or ethno-astronomy, etc. It was established at the request of the History of Astronomy Interest Group at their June '93 meeting at Notre Dame and currently has about 550 members in about 40 countries on all continents.

To subscribe to HASTRO-L send the following one line message to LISTSERV@WVNVM.WVNET.EDU :

SUB HASTRO-L [your name]

(More info on: http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrosche/hist_astr/ha-hastro-l.html)

Contact: Prof. Stephen McCluskey, Department of History, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, USA, e-mail: SCMCC@WVNVM.WVNET.EDU

/// Publications On-Line

★ *Astronomi in Italia dall'Unita' ai nostri giorni: un primo elenco*

by G. Foderà and D. Randazzo

(<http://www.astropa.unipa.it/biblioteca/Astronomi/introduction.html>)

The directory includes 277 short biographies of astronomers and persons who operated in the field of Astronomy in Italy in the period spanning from the year of its political unification (1860) until 1996: mainly, biographies of scientific staff

employed by astronomical institutions (including the Vatican Observatory), but also amateur astronomers and scientists who, even for a short time, were involved in the astronomical field.

The paper version of this work has been published in 1997 by the Società Astronomica Italiana. People interested to have a copy of this book - free of charge - may contact Donata Randazzo (see address below).

★ ***Catalogo di strumenti scientifici nella biblioteca dell'Osservatorio Astronomico di Palermo***

by G. Foderà, F. Martines and D. Randazzo

(<http://www.astropa.unipa.it/biblioteca/Strumenti/Introduction.html>)

The catalogue includes the descriptions of 147 trade publications, dealing with scientific instruments, belonging to the Library of the Palermo Astronomical Observatory.

Should anyone be interested in the paper version of this publication, please contact Donata Randazzo (donata@astropa.unipa.it): a copy free of charge will be sent to you.

*Donata Randazzo, Librarian
Osservatorio Astronomico di Palermo G. S. Vaiana,
Piazza del Parlamento, 1 - 90134 Palermo (Italy)
tel. 39091233243, fax 39091233444, E-mail: donata@astropa.unipa.it*

/// **History of Astronomy Displays and Exhibitions**

☞ **Written in the Stars**

Art and Symbolism of the Zodiac

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, October/December 2001

This exhibition, comprising unusual items on loan from collections around the world, features a broad variety of visual representations of the Zodiac in Jewish as well as pagan and Christian art.

A web version can be seen at: <http://www.imj.org.il/zodiac/index-e.html>
The Catalogue no. 452, ISBN 965 278 273 4, 144 pp. 85 illustrations, English, Soft cover, \$27.50 + shipping, can be ordered online from:
<http://www.imj.org.il/shop/new.html> or at the following address:
The Israel Museum, POB 71117, Jerusalem 91710, Israel
Tel: 972-2-6708811 Fax: 972-2-5631833

☞ **Segni e sogni della Terra**

**Il disegno del mondo dal mito di Atlante alla geografia delle reti
(Signs and dreams of the Earth.**

The drawing of the world from the myth of Atlas to the geographical networks)

Palazzo Reale, Milan (Italy), 27 September 2001/ 3 February 2002

The exhibition celebrates the first centenary of the Istituto Geografico De Agostini in Milan and is organized with the collaboration of the local municipality. Through the legends and the technical evolution illustrating the development of the ideas, the visitors will follow the path of the historical evolution of the representation of the planet Earth, from the Babylonians discoveries to Marco Polo, from Copernicus and Newton to the modern geographical networks.

Instrument coming from the most important European and extra-European museums are exhibited in a view not strictly Europe-centered but open to the cultures and civilizations whose contribution to the knowledge of the terrestrial globe has been relevant.

Scientific Committee: Peter Barber (Map Library-British Library, UK), Giovanni Caprara (Italy), Umberto Eco (Italy), Enrico Gamba (Dipartimento di matematica e fisica dell'Università Cattolica di Brescia, Italy), Marica Milanese (Dipartimento Storico Geografico Università di Pavia, Italy), Giuseppe Motta (Associazione Italiana Cartografia, Italy), Monique Pelletier (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France), Fabio Peri (Civico Planetario di Milano, Italy), Carlo Pirovano (Italy), Paolo Rossi (Università degli Studi di Firenze, Dipartimento di Filosofia, Italy), Rudolf Schmidt, International Coronelli Society, Vienna, Austria), Pasquale Tucci (Istituto di Fisica Generale Applicata, Sezione Storia della Fisica, Milano, Italy).

Further information (in Italian) on the web page:

http://www.deagostini.it/centenario/mostra/art_mostra.htm

(text extracted and translated from the webpage above indicated)

ERRATUM: In the previous NL we have indicated Prof. Wolfgang R. Dick as the author of the report "Colloquium in Commemoration of 1500th Anniversary for Zu Chongzhi" instead of Prof. Liu Ci Yaun, President of the Commission on History of Astronomy of the Chinese Astronomical Society. We apologize him for this mistake.

CONTACT

Contributions to the Newsletter can be sent to:

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Editorial Board: Dr. Ileana Chinnici (Italy), Prof. Alex Gurshtein (Russia), Dr. Wayne Orchiston (Australia), Prof. Richard Stephenson (United Kingdom).