



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

No. 3 - June 2002

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A. ICHA Conference on "Astronomical Instruments and Archives from the Asia-Pacific Region": Progress Report

The international conference on "Astronomical Instruments and Archives from the Asia-Pacific region" is the first conference organised by the ICHA, and will be held in Cheongju, Korea between 2002 July 2-5. The primary reason for the conference is to mark the inauguration of the Nha Il-Seong Museum of Astronomy.

Sponsored by the City of Cheongju, the Korea Astronomy Observatory and the Ministry of Science and Technology, the conference will be held in the Cheongju Art Center, and in addition to paper sessions the program will include a welcome banquet, conference dinner, visit to the Nha Il-Seong Museum of Astronomy, and visits to other museums and city attractions. There is also a rich program of visits and other activities for those family members accompanying conference registrants.

We are expecting that 80-90 people will attend the conference, with more than half from overseas. Countries represented among registrants are: Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, the U.K., the U.S.A., Vietnam and of course Korea.

Fortunately, we received a rich offering of verbal and poster papers, and the program will include sessions on "Archives and Historiography", "Astronomers and History", "Exchange and Development of Astronomical Knowledge", "Observational Records and Modern Scientific Applications", "Early Astronomical Instrumentation", "Recent Astronomical Instrumentation" and "Star Charts and Calendars".

Papers from the conference will be published in a book, edited by Suzanne Debarbat, Wayne Orchiston and Richard Stephenson. Copies will be provided free of charge to all conference attendees, but other ICHA members will have the opportunity to purchase copies, and details will be provided in a later *Newsletter*. For further information about the conference, please refer to our web site:

<http://www.nhamuseum.org/conference2002> or contact any of the under-signed.

Il-Seong Nha, SOC Chairman (SLISNHA@chollian.net)

Richard Stephenson, SOC Deputy Chairman (f.r.stephenson@durham.ac.uk)

B. History of Astronomy at the July 2003 IAU General Assembly

The Program

Decisions have now been made about the different Symposia and Joint Discussions that will feature during the Sydney General Assembly (GA), and unfortunately our bid for a JD on "The Southern Sky in Historical Perspective: From Indigenous Astronomies to Super-Telescopes" was unsuccessful. I have been assured that the competition for JDs was particularly fierce.

That's the bad news, but now to the good news. Apart from the JD, it looks like we will be able to offer all of the remaining elements of our intended C41/ICHA program. So at this stage we hope there will be the following meetings:

Business Meeting #1: C41/ICHA AGM

Business Meeting #2: National Reports

Science Meeting #1: Applied Historical Astronomy

Science Meeting #2: The Early Development of Australian Radio Astronomy
(jointly with Commission 40 – Radio Astronomy)

Science Meeting #3: Recent Research

Working Group Meeting #1: Archives

Working Group Meeting #2: Astronomical Chronology

Working Group Meeting #3: Historical Instruments

Working Group Meeting #4: Transits of Venus

Because of program scheduling and room availability, we have only been assigned all Monday and Tuesday, plus Wednesday morning, during the second week of the GA, so we hope to run parallel sessions for much of this period.

In addition to these paper sessions, there should also be one or two historically-oriented field trips or observatory visits.

First Call for Papers

Although the GA is a year away, it is not too early to begin thinking about preparing a paper. Most of our meetings will accommodate verbal papers and poster papers, and the range of meetings is such that every history of astronomy interest can be accommodated within the program.

Science Meeting #1 is designed to capture the momentum generated by the 2000 Manchester GA session on "Applied Historical Astronomy", so if you gave a paper at that meeting and have new research to report, then this is your chance. We would also like to hear from others actively involved in Applied Historical Astronomy research who were not at the Manchester GA. Anyone thinking about preparing a verbal or poster paper for the Sydney meeting should in the first instance discuss this with Professor Richard Stephenson (Durham University), on f.r.stephenson@durham.ac.uk

Australia has long been a leader in international radio astronomy, and *Science Meeting #2* will feature some of the pioneers in this field. Now in their 70s and 80s,

these scientists have a wealth of memories and reminiscences to share with us. The program will involve invited contributors from Australia and overseas, and is being put together by Professor Woody Sullivan and Drs Raymond Haynes, Dave Jauncey and Wayne Orchiston. For further information, please contact the under-signed.

C41 and the ICHA have four different Working Groups (WGs), and we expect each of these to have a meeting in Sydney. If you have been researching astronomical archives, astronomical chronology, historic astronomical instruments or transits of Venus and are thinking about presenting a paper on your work at one of the Sydney *Working Group Meetings*, please contact the relevant WG Chairperson and discuss your ideas with them. These contacts are:

Archives WG, Dr Suzanne Débarbat (Paris Observatory, France) on:
Suzanne.Debarbat@obspm.fr

Astronomical Chronology WG, Professor Alexander Gurshtein (Mesa State College, USA) on: agurshtein@hotmail.com

Historical Instruments WG, Professor Il-Seong Nha (Nha Il-Seong Museum of Astronomy, Korea) on: SLISNHA@chollian.net

Transits of Venus WG, Dr Wayne Orchiston (Anglo-Australian Observatory, Australia) on: wo@aaoepp.aao.gov.au

Meanwhile, if you have been researching a topic that does not comfortably fall into the themes of the four WG Meetings *or* the Applied Historic Astronomy Science Meeting but would still like to report on your work in Sydney, then we have just the place for you. *Science Meeting #3* on "Recent Research" is designed to accommodate all other research work, and if you are thinking about a verbal or poster paper for this session please discuss this first with the under-signed.

Finally, if you would like to present a paper in *Business Meeting #2*, and summarise major history of astronomy research developments in your country since the 2000 Manchester GA, please in the first instance discuss this with the under-signed.

Concluding Remarks

Although we may have missed out on the Southern Hemisphere JD, there will still be an exciting history of astronomy program at the Sydney GA, and one that caters to all tastes. The date of the General Assembly is 14-26 July 2003, at the Entertainment Centre in downtown Sydney, and our history of astronomy program is in the second week.

The C41/ICHA Organising Committee is looking forward to a good turn out of members in Sydney. Come and enjoy a unique history of astronomy meeting, and at the same time experience Australia's largest and most dynamic city, the host venue, remember, of the last summer Olympics. Mark July 2003 in your diary now.

Wayne Orchiston (C41/ICHA Sydney Program Co-ordinator)
wo@aaoepp.aao.gov.au

C. Your membership of the ICHA

The Inter-union Commission for History of Astronomy (ICHA) was established in 2001 by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the Division of History of Science of the International Union for History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS). This is the first genuine inter-union Commission of this type*, and was established in order to bring together historians of astronomy world-wide.

The ICHA

- produces a bi-annual newsletter
- organises collaborative research projects (mainly through its four Working Groups)
- organises conferences (such as the July 2002 Korean Conference)
- organises history of astronomy sessions at the IAU and the IUHPS General Assemblies
- endorses and supports major history of astronomy projects (such as the General History of Astronomy Project published by Cambridge University Press, and the forthcoming *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers*)
- encourages the major history of astronomy journals
- prepares and, when relevant, acts on IAU and IUHPS resolutions
- when required, prepares reports for the IAU, the IUHPS and other international bodies.

The business of the ICHA is conducted by an Organising Committee, which is elected triennially at the General Assemblies of the IAU.

There are two categories of ICHA membership:

- Full Members (who are existing members of IAU Commission 41), and
- Associate Members (non-IAU C41 members)

Membership of the ICHA is free, and *all* members receive the ICHA Newsletter, can join in the Commission's research programs, and can participate in the Commission's Conferences and the history of astronomy sessions at the IAU and IUHPS General Assemblies.

New members of the ICHA are elected at the General Assemblies of the IAU. Since the ICHA was formed after the 2000 IAU General Assembly, in building a mailing list for the newsletters we decided to include (a) existing IAU C41 (History of Astronomy) members, (b) those known to be active in history of astronomy research through the IUHPS, and (c) others with refereed publications in history of astronomy or with a serious interest in this field. Some of those in group (c) are IAU members who are not (yet) members of C41.

* I use the term "genuine" inter-union Commission advisedly, because an earlier so-called "Joint Commission" or "Inter-Union Commission" claimed to exist. However, it has been clearly established that this was set up unilaterally by the IUHPS in 1994, without approval from the IAU. The true status of this unauthorized "Commission" was only discovered by the IAU in 2000, and once these circumstances became known to the IUHPS it closed down this commission and, working in collaboration with the IAU, formally approved the founding of the ICHA.

For the purposes of this exercise, the ICHA Organising Committee has decided to regard everyone on the current *ICHA Newsletter* mailing list as a *foundation member* of the ICHA, and we will be submitting this list of names to the IAU General Secretary in October 2002 for formal endorsement at the July 2003 General Assembly in Sydney. Those who are already IAU C41 members will be listed as Full Members of the ICHA and all others will be listed as Associate Members.

As a recipient of this newsletter your name is on the ICHA Membership List. If you wish to remain a member then you need take no action, but if you do not wish your name to go forward in October then please make a point of contacting me before the end of August 2002. We will then delete your name from the Mailing List.

Wayne Orchiston, Secretary, C41/ICHA
wo@aaoepp.aao.gov.au

D. An invitation to participate in the C41/ICHA Working Groups

Introduction

When the ICHA was founded in 2001 it inherited four history of astronomy Working Groups (WGs) that had been set up earlier by IAU Commission 41 (History of Astronomy). These relate to archives, astronomical chronology, historic astronomical instruments, and transit of Venus.

The Four Working Groups

- The *Archives WG* was founded in 1991, primarily to establish a register of extant astronomical archives of historical interest, and to encourage their preservation, conservation, cataloguing and interpretation. The Chairman of the WG Committee is Dr Suzanne Débarbat (debarbat@danof.obspm.fr or Suzanne.Debarbat@obspm.fr). She has collected information related to astronomical archives from France, Italy, The Netherlands. All other information about such collections and their utilization will be welcome for a general report to the GA. Send it to Suzanne Débarbat as soon as you can.
- The *Astronomical Chronology WG* was set up in 2000 in order to compile a wide-ranging internationally-approved master list of the major milestones in the history of astronomy that profoundly influenced its development. The Chairman of the WG Committee is Professor Alex Gurshtein (agurshtein@hotmail.com).
- The *Historic Instruments WG* was founded in 2000, primarily to establish a register of extant astronomical instruments of historical importance, and to encourage their preservation, conservation, cataloguing and interpretation. The Chairman of the WG Committee is Professor Il-Seong Nha (SLISNHA@chollian.net) and the URL of the WG's Web site is: <http://my.dreamwiz.com/snah/>

- The *Transits of Venus WG* was also founded in 2000 with the up-coming 2004 and 2012 transits in mind, and aims to document the sites, personnel, instruments and publications associated with the observation of previous transits, and to encourage the preservation and interpretation of such sites. The Chairman of the WG Committee is Dr Wayne Orchiston (wo@aaoepp.aao.gov.au).

Reporting Recent Activities and Relevant Research

We are aware that many ICHA members have independently carried out research in the fields covered by the WGs during the period 1999-2002 (inclusive), and we would like to hear about your work so that we can accommodate it when preparing the WG triennial reports for the IAU and IUHPS. Please could all members who have contributed in this way send a summary of their research, plus a list of related publications, to the Chairperson(s) of the relevant WG(s) *before the end of August 2002*. If you are not certain about the relevance of your research, do feel free to discuss this with the relevant WG Chairperson.

An Invitation to Participate

All of the WGs have active research programs that will extend into the next triennium, after the July 2003 IAU General Assembly. If you would like to be an active participant in one or more of these programs, and make sure that your country's astronomical archives, important astronomical instruments or transit of Venus programs are properly researched, then please contact the relevant WG Chairperson(s). We encourage all ICHA members to consider becoming active participants in one or more of these important programs, thereby contributing in a meaningful way to collaborative international history of astronomy research.

The Sydney Meetings

Finally, a reminder that meetings of all four WGs are scheduled for the July 2003 General Assembly in Sydney, where there will be an opportunity to report on recent research.

Suzanne Débarbat, Alex Gurshtein, Il-Seong Nha, Wayne Orchiston

E. Triennial and Progress Reports: a request for information

In October we must submit a C41 triennial report for 1999-2002 to the General Secretary of the IAU, and at the same time we plan to submit 2001-2002 ICHA Progress Reports to both the IAU and the IUHPS.

To help us prepare these reports we would like to hear about the research activities of individual ICHA members. Please send summaries of your work, plus a list of associated publications, to the under-signed by the end of August. Make sure you send this information as an ASCII (plain text) file and not as a Word file, and if you previously submitted a list of publications to me, please send an up-dated version that extends *from 1999 through to the present time*.

Meanwhile, separate reports (and lists of publications) on research that relates to astronomical archives, historic astronomical instruments, or transits of Venus should be sent directly to the Chairperson of the relevant ICHA Working Group (see the earlier newsletter article).

Richard Stephenson, C41/ICHA President
f.r.stephenson@durham.ac.uk

F. The Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers

Astronomy is the oldest of the physical sciences. Its history is filled with brilliant and colorful personalities. Yet no discipline-specific biographical “dictionary” exists. Historians of astronomy, often *via* our communal List-server HASTRO-L, have long discussed the need for such a project, but so far none has come to pass. Until now.

The *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers* (Kluwer Academic Publishers) is a commissioned collection of short biographical essays. The project consists of stand-alone articles, arranged alphabetically, and cross-referenced with a glossary and index. At least two volumes are planned.

Coverage is international, from antiquity to late in the twentieth century. For proper historical perspective, we limit ourselves to persons born before 1914, with a few exceptions. We are especially proud of our attention to often-overlooked Islamic and other non-western astronomers and mathematicians. Similarly, we have included many biographical sketches for astronomers who had, to this point, never been included in standard sources about astronomy or science.

In making entry selections we used a broad definition of the word “astronomer”. It includes astrophysicists, cosmologists, and planetologists in addition to traditional sidereal astronomers. Many early astronomers also were astrologers; if they performed astronomical work in addition to simple divination, we include them. No distinction is made between the professional and the contributing amateur astronomer.

Some individuals are not known for their astronomical accomplishments but may be found in the history of other disciplines. Some were philosophers or theologians, chemists, geologists, or physicists. They are included in the *BEA* if they pursued astronomy beyond mere speculation.

There are some fourteen hundred *BEA* entries, written by three hundred authors from 41 countries. Entries are of variable length, ranging from less than one hundred to over fifteen hundred words. Each entry includes place and date of birth plus place and date of death and other biographical details in addition to descriptions of scientific work conducted by the individual. Every article concludes with a bibliography.

The editorial board, charged with content supervision, consists of: Prof. Katherine Bracher (Whitman College), Prof. Richard Jarrell (York University), Prof. Virginia Trimble (University of California), Prof. F. Jamil Ragep (University of Oklahoma), and Dr. Thomas Williams (Rice University).

By placing so many scholarly biographies together in one place for the first time, it is our hope that this book will serve as a reference source in the developing speciality of history of astronomy. Moreover, we intend that the easily accessible format of the work allows it to become the “point of entry” for laypersons and professionals seeking biographical information in our field.

By limiting our time coverage to those born early in the last century or before, we restrict the work to entries on individuals who already have done their major work. (Nearly all are deceased.) The only “dating” of the project that will occur will be further scholarship on the individual and his or her times. Such additions to the corpus of historical knowledge are made slowly. The *DSB* was published beginning thirty years ago; it is not yet considered to be out-of-date.

Look for publication of the *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers* in 2004.

Thomas Hockey, General Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Professor Hockey is to be congratulated on this important project, which we are pleased to see involves many ICHA members. While the formation of the ICHA came too late for it to be an active participant in the planning phase, we are happy to report that the ICHA Organising Committee has given this project its whole-hearted support, and as a result our President, Richard Stephenson, is preparing a Foreword for Volume 1.

Ileana Chinnici (ICHA Editor)

Wayne Orchiston (ICHA Secretary)

G. Journals and Publications

✓ **Archaeoastronomy. The Journal of Astronomy in Culture**

Vol. XVI, 2001

- **Manuela Incerti:** Solar Geometry in Italian Cistercian Architecture
- **John Cox:** The Orientations of Prehistoric Temples in Malta and Gozo
- **Mark Van Strydonck, William H. Waldren, Michael Hoskin:** Indications of a Possible Astronomical Orientation of an Archaeological Feature in Pretalayotic Mallorca (Spain)
- **Clive L. N. Ruggles:** *Heiau* Orientations and Alignments on Kaua'i
- **Anthony F. Aveni and Albert Ammerman:** Early Greek Astronomy in the Oral Tradition and the Search for Archaeological Correlates

Book reviews:

- **Star Myths**

A review of: *Star Myths of the Greeks and Romans: A Sourcebook* by Theony Condos (reviewed by John McMahon)

- **Caesar's Funeral Games**

A Review of: *The Comet of 44 B.C. and Caesar's Funeral Games* by John T. Ramsey and A. Lewis Licht (reviewed by Bradley E. Schaefer)

- **Ptolemy's Almagest**

A Review of: *Ptolemy's Almagest* by G. J. Toomer (reviewed by Peter Pesic)

- **Birth of Modern Cosmology**

A Review of: *Comets, Popular Culture, and the Birth of Modern Cosmology* by Sara J. Schechner (reviewed by Robert A. Hatch)

- **Painting the Heavens**

A Review of: *Painting the Heavens: Art and Science in the Age of Galileo* by Eileen Reeves (reviewed by Valerie Shrimplin)

- **Colonial Mexico**

A Review of: *Time, History, and Belief in Aztec and Colonial Mexico* by Ross Hassig (reviewed by Elizabeth Newsome)

For further information, please consult our two websites:
<http://www.myriadennium.org> and <http://www.wam.umd.edu/~tlaloc/archastro/>

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✓ **Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage**

Papers published in the December 2001 and June 2002 issues of the journal are listed below.

Volume 4, Number 2:

- **Satterthwaite, G.:** The life and times of Sir George Biddell Airy: a symposium (pp. 99-100)
- **Satterthwaite, G.:** Airy and positional astronomy (pp. 101-113)
- **Satterthwaite, G.:** Airy's transit circle (pp. 115-141)
- **Perkins, A.:** 'Extraneous government business': the Astronomer Royal as government scientist: George Airy and his work on the commissions of state and other bodies, 1838-1880 (pp. 143-154)
- **Ward, F.:** The Airys at Greenwich (pp. 155-161)
- **Lindblad, P.O.:** Bertil Lindblad's early work: the two-dimensional classification of stellar spectra at low dispersion (pp. 163-170)

Volume 5, Number 1:

- **Liu, C.-Y.:** Astronomy in the Xia-Shang-Zhou Chronology Project (pp. 1-8)
- **Nakamura, T.:** Acceptance and adaptation of octants and sextants in Japan during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (pp. 9-20)
- **Orchiston, W. and Slee, B.:** Ingenuity and initiative in Australian radio astronomy: the Dover Heights 'hole-in-the-ground' antenna (pp. 21-34)

- **Brunini, A., and Miloni, O.I.:** The contribution of José Luis Sérsic to celestial mechanics (pp. 35-40)
- **Shy, J.:** Early astronomy in America: the role of The College of William and Mary (pp. 41-64)
- **Mulder de Ridder, J.:** Eise Eisinga and his planetarium (pp. 65-87)
- **Theodossiou, E., Danezis, E., Manimanis, V.N., and Kalyva, E.-M.:** From Pythagoreans to Kepler: the dispute between the geocentric and the heliocentric systems (pp. 89-98)

For further information about the journal please consult our Web site at <http://www.astralpress.com.au>

John Perdrix, Managing Editor (astral@inet.net.au)
Wayne Orchiston, Papers Editor (wo@aoepp.ao.gov.au)

✓ Rittenhouse (Astronomical papers)

Vol. 15, 2001

- **R. Barclay and B. Ziolkiewicz,** Historic Scientific Instruments Containing Mercury #53, pp. 21-30.
- **Barry J. Sobel,** The Story of the Orrery and the Trippensee Company #54, pp. 83-92.

Web page: www.rittenhousejournal.org (includes cumulative index to all 15 volumes)

Editor: Dr. Randall C. Brooks, e-mail: RBrooks@nmstc.ca or Brooks@iStar.ca

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✓ Contributions for the History of Geophysics and Cosmical Physics

This series of history of geophysical books, published by Science Edition, D-28777 Bremen, started in 2000. A description of the series and of the first volumes will be given following (if not indicated otherwise, the texts are in English).

Volume 1 comprises the discussion of Hans Ertel's paper on causality, freedom of will and teleology as a problem of natural philosophy. Ertel was father of the well-known Ertel Vorticity theorem, the Ertel Potential theorem, and the Ertel-Euler Equations, and also discussed the problem of weather-forecasting. In this book several authors discuss Ertel's results.

Volume 2 gives a review of the general problems of "History and Philosophy of Geophysics".

Volume 3 presents the papers on Ether by Albert Einstein, Gustav Mie and Emil Wiechert. It includes the letters on this topic by David Hilbert to Gustav Mie.

Volume 4 presents biographical sketches of various scientists and their "Pathways to Science", including papers by Sir Ian Axford, FRS, Sir Alan Cook, FRS, Syuin-I. Akasofu, Gerald Friedman et. al.

Volume 5 discusses the changes in interpretation of aurorae and presents a discussion of the aurora of 1716 March 17 based upon original sources.

Volume 7 (2002) presents the lectures given at the Hanoi Conference on "Solar Variability and Geomagnetism".

These books can be ordered from Science Edition, Hechelstrasse 8, D-28777 Bremen, which also accepts standing orders.

Wilfried Schröder
Geophysical Institute, Bremen, Germany

Books

- **Dahl E. H. and Gauvin J.-F.**, 2000. *Sphaerae Mundi. Early Globes at the Stewart Museum*, Septentrion & McGill-Queen's University Press, 203 pp.
- **Simon G. and Débarbat S. (eds.)**, 2001. "Optics and Astronomy", *Proceedings of the XXth International Congress of History of Science* (Liege, 20-26 July 1997), De Diversis Artibus, Collection des travaux de l'Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences, Brepols ed., vol. XII, 238 pp.

Some research papers by C41/ICHA members - 2000/2002

- **Brosche P. and Débarbat S.**, 2001. "Franz Xaver von Zach et l'astronomie dans la France méridionale" in: Brouzeng P. and Débarbat S. (eds.) *Sur les traces des Cassini*, pp. 279-286.
- **Chapront-Touzé M. and Chapront J.**, 2000. "Analytical ephemerides of the Moon in the 20th century" in: Bonoli F., De Meis E. and Panaino G. (eds.) *Astronomical Amusements-Papers in honor of Jean Meeus*, Milan, pp. 33-62.
- **Chinnici I.**, 2000. "XIX Century Spectroscopic Instruments in Italian Astronomical Observatories", *Nuncius* XV/2, 671-680.
- **Chinnici I. and Foderà G.**, 2001. "Cerere Ferdinanda, Palerme 1er janvier 1801", *L'Astronomie* 115, 2-16.
- **Chinnici I., Foderà G. and Brenni P.**, 2001. "The Ramsden's Circle at the Palermo Astronomical Observatory", *Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society* 71, 2-10.
- **Chinnici I., Foderà G. and Brenni P.**, 2001. "The restoration of three large telescopes of the Palermo Astronomical Observatory", *Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society* 71, 11-16.

- **Chinnici I. and Gramatowski W.**, 2001. "Le carte di Angelo Secchi conservate presso l'archivio della P. Università Gregoriana. Un inventario inedito rivisitato", *Nuncius XVI/2*, 571-627.
- **Chinnici I.**, 2002. "Angelo Secchi S. J. (1818-1878)" in: Tanzella-Nitti G. and Strumia A. (eds.) *Dizionario interdisciplinare di Scienza e Fede*, Urbaniana University Press, pp. 2089-2098.
- **Débarbat S.**, 2000. "Une entreprise internationale d'avant le SIL: la Carte du Ciel" in: Calledda G. and Proverbio E. (eds.) *Storia del Servizio internazionale delle latitudini e delle imprese di cooperazione internazionale (1850-1950)*, Atti del Convegno di Storia dell'Astronomia (Cagliari 24-25 settembre 1999), University Press CUEC Publ., pp. 115-121.
- **Débarbat S.**, 2000. "Ground-based astrometric observations in the space era : The case of the Danjon astrolabe" in: Vondrak J. and Capitaine N. (eds.) *Journées 1999 Systèmes de référence spatio-temporels - Reference systems and frames in the space era: present and future astrometric programmes*, pp. 94-97.
- **Débarbat S.**, 2000. "Borda et l'astronomie", *Bulletin de la Société de Borda* 456, 31-48.
- **Débarbat S.**, 2000. "La nomenclature du système métrique: deux cents ans d'évolution" in *Les sciences et leur langage*, Editions du CTHS, pp. 98-107.
- **Débarbat S.**, 2000. "Courte histoire des éclipses observées en Europe depuis l'Antiquité" in: Vega H. J. and Sanchez (eds.) *Fundamental Problems in Classical Quantum and String Cosmology*, Sixth Paris Cosmology Colloquium (15-20 juin 1999), World Scientific Publ., pp. 315-332.
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H. News

/// Society for the History of Astronomy

A new national Society for the History of Astronomy is being formed in the UK, with the support of noted astronomy historian Dr. Allan Chapman of Wadham College, Oxford. The Society will welcome equally amateur and professional historians and astronomers, and enthusiasts with a general interest in the subject. The objectives of the Society will include encouraging new research into the history of astronomy, especially amateur research at the local level, and facilitating its collation, publication and dissemination both by conventional means and through the internet.

It is planned to develop a close working relationship with the Royal Astronomical Society and the British Astronomical Association Historical Section, with the aim of contributing research material and publications to both of their Libraries as well as maintaining a central Archive and promoting the preservation of such research in local, county and national record offices.

Stuart Williams of the SHA said "Astronomers know well the major contribution that amateurs can and do make to the study of the great science, both making new discoveries and supporting the major research programmes of the professionals. Amateur and local historians can make an equally important contribution to the history of astronomy, especially its local history or in those aspects of history which cannot always be covered by professionals, such as that of the scientists assisting the 'big names', the local and university observatories, the amateur astronomers and societies, the telescope makers and publishers, etc. The SHA will have as one of its primary aims the encouragement and support of amateur research in these areas especially, but will also encourage professional research and the widest possible general interest in the subject."

The Society for the History of Astronomy will be founded at a special meeting organised for the purpose at Wadham College, Oxford, on Saturday 29th June 2002 at 1pm. A light lunch will be available at modest cost before the meeting, at 12 noon. Anyone interested in joining the new Society and contributing to its work is very welcome to attend that meeting, and for further details and a formal Invitation should indicate their interest by sending an A4 first class stamped s.a.e. to:

Stuart Williams FRAS LRPS,
Society for the History of Astronomy,
Flamsteed Villa, 26 Matlock Road,
Bloxwich, West Midlands, WS3 3QD, United Kingdom.

Stuart Williams can be contacted by email on flamsteed@v21mail.co.uk

(Stuart Williams to RETE on April 22nd, 2002)

/// Meeting of the Antique Telescope Society

Dublin, Ireland, 20-25 September 2002

The Antique Telescope Society will hold its 2002 meeting in Dublin, Ireland, with trips to Birr, Armagh, and Dunsink; Friday, September 20 through Wednesday, September 25, 2002.

Friday, September 20, Banquet at the Friends of the National Art Gallery with
Keynote Address.

Saturday, September 21, Paper sessions, Displays, Evening sessions.

Sunday, September 22, Paper sessions, Displays, Evening sessions.

Monday, September 23, Tour of Birr Castle, evening observing if possible.

Tuesday, September 24, Tour Megalithic Monument of New Grange, Tour of
Armagh Observatory, Observing at Armagh.

Wednesday, September 25, Tour the National Museum Eggesdorf Collection,
Tour of Dunsink Observatory, Observing at Dunsink.

I can forward the registration form as an attached Word document. Please email me directly for such a request: telscope@europa.com

(Peter Abrahams to RETE, May 1st, 2002)

/// Meeting of the History of Science Society

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA; 7-10 November 2002

The History of Science Society will convene in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, 7-10 November 2002.

The HSS would like to emphasize that although the program committee has selected the theme, "Crossing Borders," to give coherence and structure to the annual meeting and to encourage exchange with the affiliated meetings of the Philosophy of Science Association and the Society for Social Studies of Science, ALL topics are welcome.

Some of the suggested themes are:

1. Topographies of Knowledge;
2. Circulation: Knowledge, Objects, Practices, People;
3. Visual Cultures of Science, Technology, and Medicine.

For additional information concerning the 2002 meeting, contact the HSS Executive Office or visit the HSS Web site.

(forms and guidelines available at www.hssonline.org/2002meeting)

Contact: Robert J. Malone, Ph.D. History of Science Society, est. 1924

Executive Director Constituent Member of the American Council
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Box 351330; 236 Johnson Hall

Seattle, WA 98195-1330 URL: <http://www.hssonline.org>

(206) 543-9366/685-9544 (FAX) E-mail: hssexec@u.washington.edu

/// ARQ-13: Ethno and Archaeoastronomy in the Americas, Call for papers
Santiago de Chile, 14-18 July 2003

The symposium has been accepted by the Organizing Committee of the 51st International Congress of Americanists (ICA). The deadline for sending proposals is 31st September 2002. For further information see:

http://www.ctio.noao.edu/~boccas/ica51_simposio_arq13.html

Do not hesitate to contact the executive coordinators (mboccas@gemini.edu and gonzalo@astro.bo) for additional questions. Our hope is to gather all the serious investigators who have worked in this field in Northern, Central and Southern America over the last few years. Looking forward your proposals

Johanna Broda, Mexico; Gonzalo Pereira, Bolivia; Maxime Boccas, Chile
Coordinators of the Symposium

/// The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena: Fourth Conference
Magdalen College, Oxford (UK), August 3-9, 2003

As at previous meetings (Castel Gandolfo, 1994; Malta, 1999; Palermo, 2001), the conference will explore humanity's fascination with astronomical phenomena as strong and often dominant elements in life and culture. The conference will provide a meeting place for artists and scholars from a variety of disciplines (including Archaeology and Anthropology, Art and Art History, Classics, History and Prehistory, the Physical and Social Sciences, Mythology and Folklore, Philosophy, and Religion) to present and discuss their studies on the influences of astronomical phenomena and address topics of common interest.

The fourth meeting will be held at Magdalen College, Oxford (UK), starting Sunday 3 August, 2003. There will be a wide range of guest and keynote speakers, with confirmed speakers so far including Professor Ronald Hutton (University of Bristol) and Professor John North (University of Oxford).

Opportunities will be provided for 30 minute presentations as well as poster presentations and the new application form is now linked within the "application process" section in the INSAP IV webpage:

<http://ethel.as.arizona.edu/~white/insap/i4applyx.htm>

Applications to attend and abstracts must be submitted by 1 December 2002 to Professor Ray White (rwhite@as.arizona.edu) or Mr Nick Campion (ncampion@caol.demon.co.uk)

Attendance will be by invitation from among those applying. All presentations and discussions will be in English. This Conference is sponsored by the Vatican Observatory and the Steward Observatory.

For further information, contact the above or members of the International Executive or Local Organising Committees (contact details and email addresses as provided on the INSAPIV website:

<http://ethel.as.arizona.edu/~white/insap/insap4x.htm>).

Rolf M. Sinclair

/// **Mundi Subterranei: Scientific Instrument Collections in the University**

Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. (USA), 24-27 June 2004

The Dartmouth collection of historic scientific instruments, one of the oldest and largest at a North American university, is currently being reorganized and catalogued. Other universities and colleges around the world have begun similar projects, seeking to formalize collections that, until now, have been virtually unknown even within their institutions. Taken individually, such collections present unique windows into the role of instruments in higher education and in transmitting scientific knowledge to public audiences. Taken collectively, they represent a vast scholarly resource that is still largely hidden from view and under-appreciated.

With this in mind, Dartmouth will host a conference in June of 2004, focusing on the theme of instrument collections in academic institutions. We hope:

1. To encourage the development of a network among these collections.
2. To provide a forum to discuss practical problems that pertain to such collections, including cataloguing, web exhibits, storage and exhibition space, safety issues such as potentially toxic substances, and the profile of such collections on campus and their use in teaching and research.
3. To facilitate presentation of scholarly papers and posters relating to scientific instruments, their histories and the collections in which they reside.

For further information, contact: francis.j.manasek@dartmouth.edu

The Mundi Subterranei Planning Committee

*Frank Manasek (Chair), Richard Kremer, David Pantalony, Sara Schechner
(J. W. Briggs to OLDSCOPE, May 20th, 2002)*

/// **History of Astronomy Internet Discussion Lists**

☞ **Historia Coelestis - A New Astronomy History Form**

Historia Coelestis is a discussion group and resource for all those with an interest in the History of Astronomy, Astronomers, Telescopes, Observatories, Books and Star Lore, whether amateur or professional. It is particularly intended to encourage amateur research at the local level by amateur astronomers or local historians, without whom much fascinating research would not be done. The membership is still fairly small - so please do take part and contribute to the life of the group. Subscribe: historiacoelestis-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Stuart Williams F.R.A.S.

(More info on: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/historiacoelestis>)

☞ **HASTRO-L new server**

On 19 June HASTRO-L moved to a new server. The new address for posting messages to HASTRO-L is:

HASTRO-L@listserv.wvu.edu

The new address for subscribing and changing options by e-mail will be:

listserv@listserv.wvu.edu

Steve McCluskey, LISTOWNER

(More info on <http://listserv.wvu.edu>)

/// Publications On-Line

★ *ADS (NASA Astrophysics Data System) Historical Publications*

In collaboration with the Wolbach library at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, we have been scanning microfilms from many historical publications in astronomy, including observatory reports, bulletins, and annals. We have already scanned more than 300,000 pages from over 130 observatory series and placed the books online for browsing. The collection is available at <http://adsabs.harvard.edu/historical.html>.

Currently none of the publications have known page numbers, so pages must be viewed sequentially. We have developed an easy-to-use tool to assign page numbers to scans and to enter article information for this literature. A preview of this tool can be seen at: <http://adsbit.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/preserve/hLogin.py>

If you would like to help improve access to this valuable collection by using your browser to assign page numbers to scans, please let us know by sending email to ads@cfa.harvard.edu.

Dr Helmut Steinle

Max-Planck-Institut für Extraterrestrische Physik, Garching, Germany

Phone : (49)89 30000 3374; <http://www.mpe.mpg.de/hcs/>

Fax : (49) 89 30000 3569; e-mail: hcs@mpe.mpg.de

★ *Berlin Academy of Sciences Publications*

The Bibliothek der Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Berlin) is near to completing a project that will provide online editions (scanned as jpg files) of all the scientific works published by the Berlin Academy of Sciences in its various incarnations up to 1900.

Currently available are the following series:

- *Miscellanea Berolinensia (1710-1743/44).*
- *Histoire de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et des Belles-Lettres de Berlin (1745-1769).*
- *Nouveaux Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres [de Berlin] (1770-1786).*

- Physikalische und medicinische Abhandlungen der Königlichen Academie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin (1781-1786).
- Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres [de Berlin] (1786/87-1804).
- Sammlung der deutschen Abhandlungen, welche in der Königlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin vorgelesen worden in den Jahren [...] (1788/89-1803).
- Abhandlungen der Königlichen Preußischen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin (1804/11-1899/1900).

The web page is at: <http://www.bbaw.de/bibliothek/digital/index.html>
 or can be found by following the links in my
<http://www.phys.uu.nl/~vgent/astro/astrobibliography.htm>

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/// History of Astronomy Displays and Exhibitions

📖 **Bringing the Heavens to Earth:**

Cultural Astronomies around the World

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, Chicago (permanent exhibit)

This new archaeoastronomy/cultural astronomy exhibit uses artifacts, mechanical and computer interactives, and dozens of images to illustrate the many ways in which people have incorporated the sky into their culture as they try to meet their physical, social, and spiritual needs. This is the first exhibit anywhere to address the diversity and commonality of cultural astronomies, rather than focusing on one particular example. Contact: Marvin.P.Bolt.1@ND.EDU

Marvin Bolt

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

/// Obituaries

Nicolaj Petrovich YERPYLEV (Erpylev) was known in the former Soviet Union and in Russia as one of the few professional historians of astronomy who dedicated most of his career to this field. He was born on December 19, 1921 in the city of Zaporizhzhya, the Ukraine (now a sovereign republic). In 1939, he began attending Moscow State University (MSU), but WWII interrupted his studies. Among other war events, he participated in the Battle of Kursk – the biggest tank engagement of the 20th century. After the war, in 1949, he graduated from MSU and became a post-graduate at Shternberg State Astronomical Institute (GAISH). His Ph.D.

dissertation on the development of stellar astronomy in 19th century Russia was published in 1958 in the fourth issue of the *Research in History of Astronomy*.

From 1952 to 1960, N.P.Yerpylev worked in the main editorial office of the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia*, and from 1960, in the Astronomical Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences (which, in 1991, was turned into the Institute of Astronomy, INASAN). While in the Academy, he remained a supernumerary employee of the Publishing House of the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia*.

From 1977, he was the Deputy Chairman of the National Commission on Cosmic Toponymics. In 1979, he became a member of the International Astronomical Union and was elected as a member of C41. During his lifetime, he published more than 70 scientific and popular articles on various problems in astronomy, space geodesy, and history of science. For years, he was on the Editorial Board of the annual *Research in History of Astronomy*. He was a benevolent adviser and a good friend to many.

N.P.Yerpylev passed away on April 15, 1997. He was 75 years old.

A. M. Mikisha

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