



SHA e-News

Society for the History of Astronomy

Volume 6, no. 1, January 2014.

Editor: David Sellers



SHA at Starfest III, Colchester, 2 Nov 2013

SHA ON THE ROAD

The *Society for the History of Astronomy* is on an outreach mission! Successful stalls have been held at several notable events during the second half of the last year.

These have included: the **British Astronomical Association Exhibition** (22 Jun 2013) at Manchester; the **Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day** (27 Jul 2013) at Aylesbury; the **Society for Popular Astronomy Convention** (12 Oct 2013) at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge; **Starfest III** (2 November 2013) in Colchester; and the **Leeds Astromeet** (9 Nov 2013).

Lots of interest and a significant number of new members have been generated by the stalls, which displayed our banner, leaflets, back-issues of the *Bulletin* and *Antiquarian Astronomer*, together with relevant computer presentations.

With help from existing members, there is plenty of scope to get the SHA more widely known via our stall. Please feel free to suggest events where an SHA stall might be welcome or where you would like to assist in running one. The SHA needs your help to make the most of these opportunities!

RESEARCH GRANTS FOR SHA MEMBERS

At its November 2013 meeting, following up an AGM decision, the SHA Council approved regulations for the award of annual *History of Astronomy Research Grants*.

The grants (up to an aggregate total of £1000 per year), will be available "to finance any expenses incurred while pursuing a research project in the history of astronomy, broadly understood". They will be available to any SHA member in good standing and could be used for travel, accommodation, subsistence, library fees, publication fees, etc.

Applicants will have to submit a written case not exceeding 500 words. A condition of the awards is that, within one year of receiving a grant, successful applicants should provide a report (suitable for inclusion in the SHA bulletin, at the editor's discretion) on how it was used.

The administration of the grant awards will be by a committee of three, including the SHA Chairman, another SHA member and, preferably, a non-SHA member who is a respected historian of astronomy.

[Application forms](#) for research grants are available on the Society's website.

SURVEY OF MEMBERS' VIEWS

Do you think we should have more meetings for members? Are our publications hitting the spot? What could we be doing to recruit more members? Do you have an astronomical history presentation up your sleeve that you would like an opportunity to deliver, or have you simply got a grouse that you would like to get off your chest?

These and many other questions are included in a questionnaire that is to be distributed to members this month. The Council is eager to hear comments and suggestions in relation to all aspects of SHA activities.

FUTURE SHA MEETINGS

2014 SPRING CONFERENCE

The Spring Conference on 26 April will be held in the baronial hall of Chethams Library, in Manchester (see agenda below). Owing to limited seating (65 max), early pre-booking at £5 per person (£10 non-members) is strongly advised. Before sending cheques to Kevin Kilburn, please e-mail or phone to confirm availability.

Kevin J. Kilburn, FRAS,
7 Folly Fields, Cheddleton,
Leek, Staffordshire Moorlands,
ST13 7BX
Tel: 01782 551476
e-mail: kevinkilburn@sky.com

2014 SUMMER PICNIC

The Summer Picnic will be at Greenwich on 12 July 2014 (further details to follow). This will also include a curator-led tour of the temporary National Maritime Museum exhibition, **Ships, Clocks & Stars: the Quest for Longitude**. Please note that this is a change from the originally advertised date (28th June).

2014 AGM / AUTUMN CONFERENCE

The Annual General Meeting & Autumn Conference will be held at the Birmingham & Midlands Institute on 25 October 2014. Lectures will include:-

Dr Allan Chapman on *Copernicus, Galileo, the Telescope & the Church 1500-1700* (the subject of Allan's latest book)

Madeline Cox on *Derbyshire Astronomy*

Lee Macdonald on the *History of the Kew Observatory*

Prof. Bill Leatherbarrow on *The Amateur's Moon: British Selenography and the BAA Lunar Section*

Registration begins at 9.30 for a start at 10.00. The Conference finishes at 17.00. Book in advance if possible: £5 for members, £10 for non-members. (Pre-register via roger.hutchins@btinternet.com)

If you would like to speak at a future conference, please contact Madeline Cox, at: chair@shastro.org.uk

SHA Spring Conference 2014: Saturday 26 April.

Chetham's Library, Long Millgate, Manchester. M3 1SB

Chetham's Library, founded 1653 is the oldest public library in the English-speaking world.

Time	Speaker	Subject
09.30		REGISTRATION
10.00	Dr Michael Powell. (Librarian, Chetham's)	Welcome to Chetham's
	Dr Barry Henshall (Pres, Manchester AS)	Welcome to Manchester on behalf of Manchester A.S.
10.15	Paul Haley (SHA)	Sir David Gill (1843-1914): an astronomer's centenary
11.00	Bob Bower (SHA Gen. Sec. and Memb. Sec.)	Herschel's Conic Quests: William Herschel's optical work on specula, based upon his logbooks
12.00		LUNCH BREAK
	Madeline Cox, FRAS, (SHA Chairman)	Welcome back
13.30	Joe Henthorn	Horrocks, Gascoigne, Crabtree, Towneley, et al, in contemporary context
14.30	John Moffat (SHA)	Dorothea Klumpke her life and legacy.
15.15		AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS
15.45	Br Guy Consolmagno, SJ	Jesuit astronomy (TBC)
17.00	Madeline Cox	CONCLUSIONS & DISPERSAL

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

2015 Joint SHA-BAA HISTORICAL SECTION CONFERENCE

This event will be on Saturday 28 March 2015 at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and will feature presentations by two respected and prolific authors on the history of astronomy.

William S Sheehan (USA) will be speaking on the *History of Supernovae & the Dark Energy Project* (tbc)

Stuart Clark (UK) will be speaking on *Richard Carrington (and the Solar Flare of 1859)*

NEW SHA GENERAL SECRETARY NEEDED

Bob Bower took over as Membership Secretary in early 2012, and then as General Secretary. He has done a superb job in bringing better order to the records, and instigating a number of timely reforms. Council greatly regrets that Bob wishes to stand down as soon as possible, but at the latest by the AGM in October 2014.

All records are in exemplary state. The roles of General and Membership secretaries could be split. The requirements are: being well organised, competence with email and spreadsheets, enthusiasm to work with a friendly Council promoting the SHA, availability to attend at least four of the Council's five meetings (inc. AGM; travel expenses can be reimbursed).

The only way we can release Bob is for a volunteer to step-up. Please don't wait for someone else to do that. If you even might be interested and would like a chat without commitment to discuss detail, please contact the Chairman Madeline or Treasurer Roger by email to arrange a call. It can be a very rewarding experience, truly!

We also have an opportunity for a volunteer to take on the role of Events Coordinator.

SHA COUNCIL

The current SHA Officers & Council, including changes made at Oct 2013 AGM, are:

Honorary Council Members

Hon President Dr Allan Chapman
Hon Vice-President Dr Michael Hoskin

Council Members

Chairman (& Librarian) Madeline Cox
Vice-Chairman Kevin Kilburn
General & Membership Secretary Bob Bower
Treasurer Roger Hutchins
Editor, SHA Bulletin Clive Davenhall
Editor, SHA e-News & Registrar David Sellers
Editor, The Antiquarian Astronomer Ian Ridpath (after AA8)
Deputy Editor, The Antiquarian Astronomer Kevin Johnson (Editor until issue of AA8)
Survey Co-ordinator & Assistant Librarian Roger Jones
Publicity Officer Mike Leggett
Events Co-ordinator (vacant)

Appointed Officers

Archivist Mark Hurn
Webmaster Stuart Williams

SHA COUNCIL MEETINGS

Future meetings of the SHA Council are scheduled as follows:

2014 Feb 08 Manchester (Godlee Observatory)
2014 Jun 07 Birmingham (BMI)
2014 Sep 13 Cambridge (Institute of Astronomy)
2014 Nov 22 Manchester (Godlee Observatory)

If any member would like to attend one of these Council meetings, or would like anything raised at a meeting, please let Bob Bower (Gen Secretary) know.

OTHER HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY MEETINGS

BAA Historical Section Spring Meeting

Sat 3rd May 2014, 10.00-17.30

Friargate Quaker Centre, York

["North Country Astronomy, old & new"](#)

Speakers:

Martin Dawson and Martin Whipp: *"Thomas and Edwin Cooke"*

Mike Maunder: *"The first 100 years of the BAA (north of Watford)"*

David Sellers: *"William Gascoigne"*

Dr Emily Winterburn: *"The jobbing musician: William Herschel discovers astronomy"*

Prof. Tom McLeish, FRS: *"The cosmology of Robert Grosseteste"*

Prof McLeish is part of the Durham Grosseteste Project: <http://durhamgrossetesteproject.wordpress.com> - an ambitious inter-disciplinary project to examine the medieval science of Robert Grosseteste (circa 1170-1253).

It is hoped that a lunchtime trip to view the memorial to John Goodricke in central York will be included.

SHA members are warmly invited to attend.

Crawford Lecture in the History of Astronomy

The next free lecture in this prestigious Edinburgh series is due in late April/early May 2014. The subject and speaker should be confirmed by the end of January (Podcasts of some previous lectures may be found on the [Science of the Stars website](#)).

Gresham College Lecture

Thur 6th Mar 2014, 6pm

Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn, EC1N 2HH

["Michelangelo, Copernicus and the Sistine Chapel"](#) - Dr Valerie Shrimplin

It is argued that Copernicus' theory of the sun-centred universe is a key underlying theme in Michelangelo's fresco of the *Last Judgment* in the Sistine Chapel.

(this is a free event, no pre-registration necessary - 'first come, first served')

SHA PUBLICATIONS

SHA e-NEWS

The next issue of the *e-NEWS* is due in early April. If you know of any meetings, publications, exhibitions or events pertaining to the history of astronomy that might interest other members, please email brief details to the editor.

Back issues and guidelines for contributions are available from the [e-News web page](#).

SHA BULLETIN

Issue 23 of the *SHA Bulletin* should be published shortly.

Contributions for inclusion in the *Bulletin* are always welcome and might include meeting reports, articles, letters and book reviews. Back issues and guidelines for contributions are available from the [Bulletin's web page](#).

It is usually prudent to check with the Editor before preparing items where duplication is a possibility.

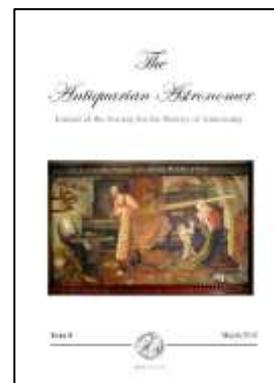
Back Issues of the *Bulletin* (and its predecessor: *SHA Newsletter*) are now indexed on the Abstract service of SAO/ NASA. Enter **SHAN** as the 'Journal Code' at

http://adsabs.harvard.edu/bib_abs.html

It is hoped that in the near future, scanned copies of the original articles will be accessible in the same way.

THE ANTIQUARIAN ASTRONOMER

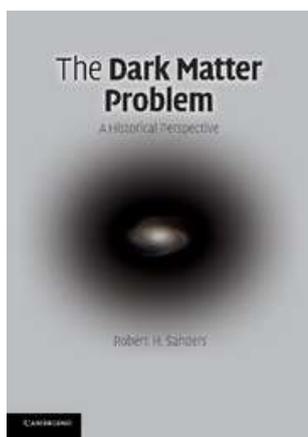
Issue 8 of *The Antiquarian Astronomer*, the Society's refereed journal, is due out by Easter 2014 and will be sent free of charge to members.



Ian Ridpath has kindly volunteered to take over from Kevin Johnson as Editor from Issue 9. Kevin has edited the journal since 2010.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS NOTICED

[The Dark Matter Problem: A Historical Perspective](#), by Robert H. Sanders (Cambridge University Press), Feb 2014, pp.214 (paperback £25.00, hardback published in 2010), ISBN 9781107677180



Most astronomers and physicists now believe that the matter content of the Universe is dominated by dark matter: hypothetical particles which interact with normal matter primarily through the force of gravity. This book describes how the theory has developed over the past 75 years, and why it is

now a central feature of extragalactic astronomy and cosmology.

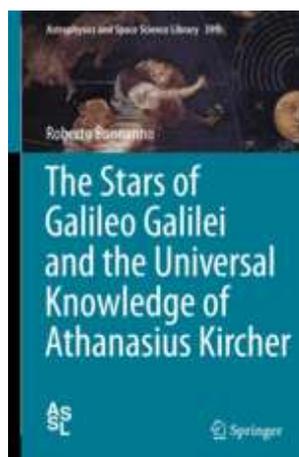
[Evening News: Optics, Astronomy, and Journalism in Early Modern Europe](#), by Eileen Reeves (University of Pennsylvania Press), May 2014, pp.328 (hardback, £45.50), ISBN 9780812245745



Examines a web of connections between journalism, optics, and astronomy in early modern Europe, devoting particular attention to the ways in which a long-standing association of reportage with covert surveillance and astrological prediction was altered by the near simultaneous emergence of

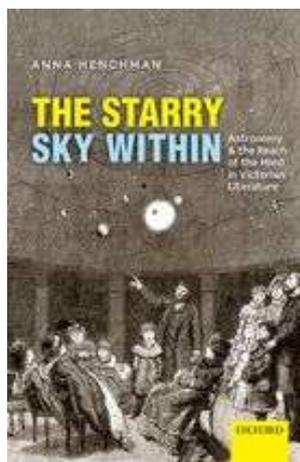
weekly newsheets, the invention of the Dutch telescope, and the appearance of Galileo Galilei's astronomical treatise, *The Starry Messenger*.

[The Stars of Galileo Galilei and the Universal Knowledge of Athanasius Kircher](#), by Roberto Buonanno (Springer), Jan 2014, pp.125 (hardback, £90), ISBN 978-3-319-00299-6



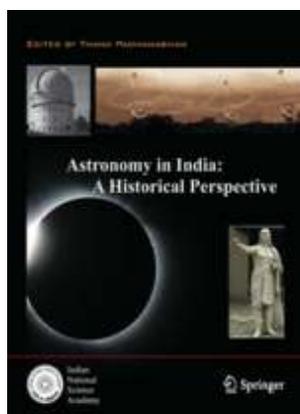
Traces the careers, ideas, discoveries, and inventions of two renowned scientists, Athanasius Kircher and Galileo Galilei, one a Jesuit, the other a sincere man of faith whose relations with the Jesuits deteriorated badly.

[The Starry Sky Within: Astronomy and the Reach of the Mind in Victorian Literature](#), by Anna Henchman (Oxford University Press), Jan 2014, pp.296 (hardback, £55), ISBN 9780199686964



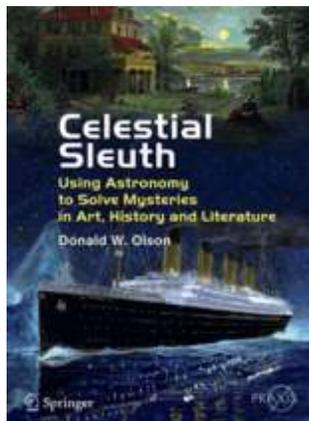
Tracing unexplored connections between nineteenth-century astronomy and literature. How "the reconceptualization of the skies gave poets and novelists new spaces in which to indulge their longing to escape the limitations of individual perspective."

[Astronomy in India: A Historical Perspective](#), by Thanu Padmanabhan (Ed.) (Springer), Feb 2014, pp.250 approx (hardback, £90), ISBN 9788184899979



Brought out as a part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Indian National Science Academy, concentrates on selected aspects of historical development of Indian astronomy in the form of six invited chapters.

[*Celestial Sleuth*](#), by Donald W Olson (Springer Praxis), Nov 2013, pp.355 (softback, £35.99), ISBN 9781461484028

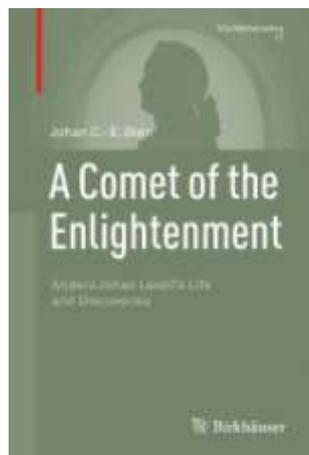


Recounts intriguing cases in which astronomy has been used as a tool to solve mysteries from art, history, and literature.

[*Ibn al-Haytham, Spherical Geometry and Astronomy: A History of Arabic Sciences and Mathematics \(v.5\)*](#), by Roshdi Rashed (Ed) (Routledge), Apr 2014, pp.352 (hardback, £90), ISBN 9780415582193

A unique primary source on the history and philosophy of mathematics and science from the mediaeval Arab world. It also includes extensive commentary from one of world's foremost authorities. [no image available]

[*A Comet of the Enlightenment: Anders Johan Lexell's Life and Discoveries \(Vita Mathematica, Vol. 17\)*](#), by Stén, Johan C.-E. (Birkhäuser/Springer), Feb 2014, pp. 416 (hardback, £85.50), ISBN 9783319006178



The Finnish mathematician and astronomer Anders Johan Lexell (1740–1784) assisted Euler in the mathematical processing of the astronomical data of the forthcoming transit of Venus of 1769. This is the first-ever full-length biography devoted to Lexell and his prolific

scientific output. A comet, a minor planet and a crater on the Moon are named after Lexell.

LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

Recent additions to the SHA Library include:

- Ratcliff, J. *The transit of Venus enterprise in Victorian Britain* (2008)
- Leeds Astronomical Society *Journal & transactions from 1894 to 1922*(CD)
- Mobberley, M., *It Came from Outer Space Wearing an RAF Blazer!: A fan's biography of Sir Patrick Moore* (2013)
- Payne-Gaposchkin, C *An autobiography and other recollections* (1984). Donated by Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society
- Lequeux, James. *Le Verrier: Savant magnifique et détesté* (2009). Donated by Madeline Cox
- Schöve, D.J. & Fletcher, A., *Chronology of Eclipses and Comets AD 1-1000* (1984). Donated by Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society
- Moore, P & Mason, J. *Patrick Moore's Yearbook of Astronomy 2014*. Donated by Madeline Cox



The [Sir Robert Ball Library](#) of the SHA is located at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS - just 10 mins walk from New St and Snow Hill stations.

If you are a member of the SHA and you wish to consult or borrow any items, please arrange a visit in advance with the Librarian: library@shastro.org.uk

A 74-page [updated catalogue](#) (Dec 2013) of the thousands of items held by the SHA Library is available on the Society website.

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

The Society for the History of Astronomy has recently taken steps to set out a clear statement of our policy on Data Protection. This can be inspected [on our website](#). Although, as a voluntary not-for-profit organisation, we do not need to register under the Data Protection Act (1998), we do nevertheless have to (and wish to) comply with the principles which underpin it.

For some time the SHA Council has aimed to set up a 'Register' of present and past members. This is intended to be distinct from the current membership list. It will store the names and addresses (but not telephone numbers or email addresses) of people who are, or have been, members of the SHA, along with a list of any special interests or expertise that they have at any time asked us to record. In effect it will be a historical document in its own right: a contemporary complement to our ongoing Regional Historical Survey. The Register will be kept indefinitely for research purposes, but will not be copied to third parties.

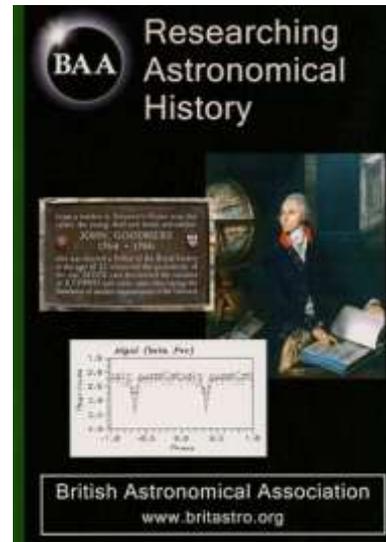
PETER HINGLEY'S FINAL CONTRIBUTION

Peter's many friends will be delighted to know that his final article (rescued posthumously from his computer, and published in 2013 in AA7) on the English Telescope Mount has in December 2013 been published in the journal of the Antique Telescope Society (of USA). Thanks to Kevin Johnson having arranged this, Peter's invaluable article and table will reach an even wider constituency and be more easily found by future researchers.



OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

NEW BAA HISTORY BROCHURE



An excellent four-page brochure (A5 size) on *Researching Astronomical History* has been published by the British Astronomical Association. This has been written by BAA History Section Director (and SHA member), Mike Frost. It is mainly aimed at prospective new BAA members with an interest in the History Section.

LA CAILLE EXHIBITION

Travelling to Paris? The historic Paris Observatory has an [exhibition](#) (open by appointment) celebrating the tri-centenary of the birth of Nicolas-Louis de La Caille (1713-1762), one of the most accomplished astronomers of the eighteenth century. The exhibition lasts until 28 March 2014. The accompanying printed guide (6 euros) is said to be excellent.



SHIPS, CLOCKS & STARS: THE QUEST FOR LONGITUDE

Marking the 300th Anniversary of the Longitude Act, [this exhibition](#) at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, is from 11 Jul 2014 - 11 Jan 2015 (see SHA July picnic) presents the ingenious methods and instruments designed to scoop the Board of Longitude's prize.

The exhibition takes visitors from the coffee houses of London to the tropical climes of Cook's Pacific voyages, exploring the industry, imagination, relationships and rivalries that shaped one of the largest scientific and technical accomplishments in history; and showing that this world-changing tale does not begin and end with Harrison's famous timekeepers

JOURNALS OF THE LEEDS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

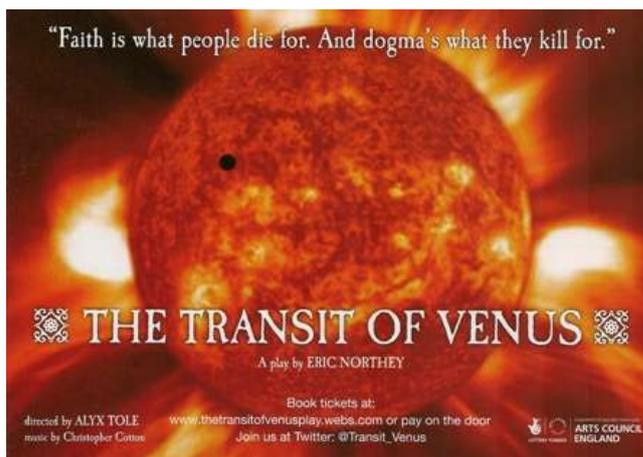


Leeds Astronomical Society has produced a CDROM containing scanned images of some of its historical 'Journals & Transactions'.

The CDROM contains Journals covering the period 1894-1922 (excluding 1912-16). The contents of the journals range from the erudite and arcane to the plainly whimsical and give a fascinating insight into the development of astronomy and the pre-occupations and emotions of our predecessors. These digitised versions are presented as PDF files complete with over 800 bookmarked articles, all hyperlinked from a simple webpage (useable with all popular web-browsers).

£4 by post within UK (other destinations on application to: David.Sellers@ntlworld.com)

TRANSIT OF VENUS PLAY



Unfortunately, this fine play by Eric Northey had the last performance of its latest run in November 2013, but keep an eye out for future repeats. For dramatic effect some licence is taken with the strict historical sequence of events, but the story of the young Lancashire astronomers, Jeremiah Horrocks and his friend William Crabtree, is told with great poignancy. The script is of high quality and gives an accurate explanation of the astronomical issues involved in the transit of Venus.

The play was first performed around the time of the June 2012 transit. The latest tour was subsidised by the *Arts Council* and had a professional cast plus specially written incidental music.

THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN AND EARTH: Images and Representations of the Sky in Sacred Space

University of Wales Trinity Saint David
The Sophia Centre for the Study of Cosmology in Culture. [Annual conference on 28-29 June 2014](#) at Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, Bath.

Keynote Speakers: Juan Antonio Belmonte (Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, Tenerife, Spain), '*Cosmic landscapes in ancient Egypt: a diachronic perspective*'.

Kim Malville (Professor Emeritus in the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences at the University of Colorado), '*The Parallelism of Heaven and Earth in Andean Cultures*'

Nicholas Campion (School of Archaeology, History and Anthropology, University of Wales Trinity Saint David), '*The Marriage of Heaven and Earth in Twentieth-Century Art: Mysticism, Magic and Astronomy in Surrealism*'.

**SIR DAVID GILL, 1843-1914:
ABERDEEN'S ROYAL ASTRONOMER
Aberdeen Maritime Museum**

Sat. 18 January - Wed. 29 March 2014

An [exhibition to mark the centenary](#) of the death of Sir David Gill (1843-1914) FRS. Gill was a native of Aberdeen and initially entered the family watch-making business. However, he was a passionate and able amateur astronomer, for example, establishing a time-keeping service for Aberdeen.



In 1871 Lord James Lindsay (1847-1913), himself an able and enthusiastic amateur astronomer, appointed Gill the first Director of his newly-established Observatory at Dun Echt. Lindsay and Gill mounted an expedition to observe the 1874 transit of Venus. During this trip Gill used Lord Lindsay's heliometer to measure the diurnal parallax of Juno, leading to the most accurate determination of the solar parallax up to that time.

From 1879 to 1906 Gill was Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope where, in addition to refurbishing the Observatory, he made important contributions to astronomical photography (playing a leading role in organising the Carte du Ciel, and collaborating with J.C. Kapteyn in producing the Cape Photographic Durchmusterung) and geodesy (he was instrumental in establishing a geodetic survey along the 30 degrees east meridian stretching from South Africa to Norway). He was Knighted in 1900.

**EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR ASTRONOMY
IN CULTURE (SEAC)
SEAC 2014: The Materiality of the Sky
Valletta, Malta, 22 - 26 September 2014**

Oral presentations or posters have been invited for this conference. These can be from any time period or culture, in the area of megalithic and monumental alignments, art, symbolism, iconography, mythology, ritual, literature, landscape and architecture, calendars, time cycles, ethnoastronomy and archaeoastronomical methodology.

Tours and excursions will include visit to sites of historical interest in Malta and to the island of Gozo. See organisers' [website](#) for further details.

SHA SURVEY OF ASTRONOMICAL HISTORY

Message from the Survey Coordinator

The Society's [new survey pages](#) on the web have now been visited over 3300 times. New names and places are being added weekly. If you know of amateur astronomers from the past whose names do not appear, please let me know.

I am particularly interested in learning more about **Philip Vallance** (1803-1897) from Sussex. According to correspondence in the English Mechanic, his collection of telescopes was probably one of the largest in the country during the latter part of the 19th century.

Roger Jones

Invitation

Have you reached a 'dead end' in your research? Are you convinced that someone out there must know the whereabouts of crucial information that you are seeking - an obscure journal article, a little-known manuscript collection, or an old book? Let SHA e-News communicate your appeal for help to other members. Send details in brief - along with your email address (to appear in e-News) to the Editor.

e-NEWS CONTACT DETAILS

Communications relating to SHA e-News should be sent to the **Editor**: enews@shastro.org.uk

General communications to the Society should be sent to the **General Secretar** (Bob Bower): membership@shastro.org.uk

SUMMARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

2014 MEETINGS

Sat. 26 Apr. SHA Spring Conference, at Chetham's Library, Manchester. Further details are given elsewhere in this eNews.

Sat. 3 May. BAA Historical Section Meeting, at the Friargate Quaker Centre in York. Further details to be advised at <http://www.britastro.org/history/>. SHA members are most welcome (non-SHA event).

Tue. 17 - Fri. 20 Jun. LISA VII, will be held on the theme of Open Science – at the Frontiers of Librarianship and will be hosted by the Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte, National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF), Naples, Italy. The scope of the LISA (Library and Information Services in Astronomy) conferences does not fall entirely within the history of astronomy but nonetheless they may be of interest. For details see: <http://eventi.oacn.inaf.it/lisa7/conference/first-announcement/> (non-SHA event).

Sat. 12 Jul. (note revised date). Summer Picnic, Greenwich Park, Greenwich, London and will include a curator-led tour of the temporary National Maritime Museum exhibition, *Ships, Clocks & Stars: the Quest for Longitude*. Further details to be advised.

Sat. 22 - Fri. 26 Sep. SEAC 2014. The annual meeting of the *Société Européenne pour L'Astronomie dans la Culture* (SEAC), The Materiality of the Sky, will be held in Malta. Further details will be available from the SEAC Web site: <http://www.archeoastronomy.org/> (non-SHA event).

Sat. 25 Oct. SHA Autumn Conference and AGM, at the BMI in central Birmingham. Some preliminary details are given elsewhere in this e-News .

2015 MEETINGS

Sat. 28 Mar. SHA/BAA Historical Section Joint Meeting, at the Friargate Quaker Centre, York. Some preliminary details are given elsewhere in this e-News .

EXHIBITIONS

Thr. 21 Nov. (2013) - Sun. 2 Feb. Perfect Timing: the Mostyn Tompion clock at the British Museum. A display focusing on the renowned clockmaker Thomas Tompion (1639–1713)'s finest creation, the clock he made to celebrate the coronation of William III and Mary II in 1689. See:

http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/exhibitions/the_mostyn_tompion_clock.aspx.

Sat. 18 Jan. - Wed. 29 Mar. Sir David Gill 1843 - 1914: Aberdeen's Royal Astronomer at the Aberdeen Maritime Museum. An exhibition to mark the centenary of the death of Sir David Gill (1843-1914) FRS. See: <http://www.aagm.co.uk/Exhibitions/Current/Sir-David-Gill-1843-1914-Aberdeens-Royal-Astronomer.aspx>.