



SHA e-News

Society for the History of Astronomy

Volume 11, no.4, November 2019

Editor: David Sellers

SHA AUTUMN CONFERENCE SUCCESS

Marking the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing, all the presentations at the Autumn Conference of the SHA on 26 October 2019 had a lunar theme. Nevertheless, the variety of subjects touched upon was surprisingly wide and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The day commenced with a brief Annual General Meeting, during which Bill Barton was presented with the Roger Jones Award, for his frequent contributions to the SHA Survey, and Carolyn Bedwell was presented with the Peter Hingley Award for her assiduous voluntary work in the Library of the SHA.

The first speaker of the Conference was Dr Heather Sebire (English Heritage) who delivered a fascinating talk on *Stonehenge, archaeoastronomy and the Moon*, covering the origin and alignments of this [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) as well as the history of ideas about its meaning and purpose.

Dr Robert Massey (Dep. Exec. Director of the RAS) and Dr Alexandra Loske (art historian) teamed up to speak to us about *The Moon: Art, Science and Culture*, taking us on a journey through artistic depictions of the

Moon from prehistoric cave paintings right up to the age of space exploration. They also signed copies of [their book](#) on the same subject.

After lunch Prof. Bill Leatherbarrow delivered an intriguing presentation on *Patrick Moore & Our Volcanic Moon*: a look at the ultimately mistaken ideas of the iconic astronomy populariser about the origin of lunar craters and other features. Woven into the story was a lucid account of the compelling evidence for the now-accepted impact theory.

Dr Louise Devoy and Dr Melanie Vandembrouck (both curators at the National Maritime Museum) gave us *The Moon as muse: the ideas and inspiration behind The Moon exhibition, Royal Museums Greenwich*. This is the [UK's biggest exhibition dedicated to Earth's celestial neighbour](#) and charts the cultural and scientific story of our relationship with the Moon. It features over 180 objects, including artefacts from NASA's Apollo 11 mission.

To finish off the day, the Society's Honorary President, Dr Allan Chapman (Wadham College, Oxford) spoke enthusiastically about *The Moon, the Telescope, and the Transformation of Astronomy after 1609*.



Speakers at the Conference (l to r): Heather Sebire, Allan Chapman, Louise Devoy, Melanie Vandembrouck, Alexandra Loske, and Bill Leatherbarrow

FUTURE SHA MEETINGS

2020 SPRING CONFERENCE

This will be on **Sat 25 Apr 2020** at the Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road, Cambridge.

Registration will be from 9.30 a.m. and the Conference will commence at 10.00 a.m.

Further details about subjects and speakers will be given in a future issue of *SHA e-News*

2020 SUMMER PICNIC

This will be on **Sat 4 Jul 2020** at [Lacock Abbey](#), Wiltshire, the former home of Fox Talbot and location of a fascinating museum of photography. The Abbey is a National Trust property. Further details will be announced in due course.

2020 AUTUMN CONFERENCE & AGM

This will be on **Sat 24 Oct 2020** at the Birmingham and Midland Institute. Further details to be announced in due course.

RECIPROCAL HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS (SHA – SAF)



After two highly successful joint conferences - at the Paris Observatory ([Apr 2017](#)) and Oxford ([Apr 2019](#)), the SHA has been very keen to strengthen the continuing relationship with our friends in the *Société Astronomique de France* (SAF). To that end, the Council decided to offer honorary membership of the SHA to whoever is the President of the SAF's [Commission Histoire de l'Astronomie](#). This offer was quickly accepted by the SAF and a kind reciprocal offer, to make our own Chair (presently Gerard Gilligan) an honorary member of the SAF, was gratefully accepted. The current President of the SAF history commission is Jean-Claude Berçu, who was a speaker at both conferences, and will be well-known to many of our members.

SHA COUNCIL

The current SHA Officers & Council are:

Honorary Council Members

Hon President Dr Allan Chapman
Hon Vice-Pres. Dr Michael Hoskin
Hon Vice-Pres. Prof. Sir Arnold Wolfendale, FRS

Council Members

Chairman Gerard Gilligan
Vice-Chair (& e-News Editor) David Sellers
General Secretary Laura Carroll
Treasurer Geoff King
Membership Secretary Graham Jones
Editors, SHA Bulletin Carolyn Kennett/ vacancy
Publicity Officer Mike Leggett
Survey Coordinator Kevin Johnson
Online Editor John Chuter
Librarian James Dawson
Meetings Organiser Michael White

Co-opted Officers (non-Council)

Editor, The Antiquarian Astronomer Ian Ridpath
Archivist John Chuter
Assistant Librarian Carolyn Bedwell
Historical Records Officer Anthony Kinder

SHA COUNCIL MEETINGS

The following SHA Council meetings are scheduled for 2019:

Sat 23 Nov 2019, 10.30 am, Birmingham (BMI)

SHA members are very welcome to attend Council meetings as observers. Please let the General Secretary know in advance, if you wish to do so.

SHA PUBLICATIONS

SHA e-News

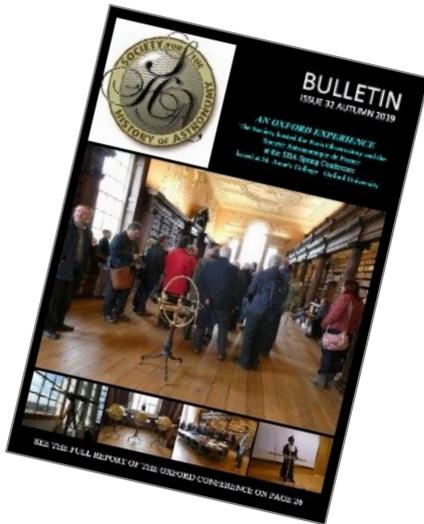
The next issue of the *e-News* is due in early February 2020. If you know of any meetings, publications, exhibitions or events pertaining to the history of astronomy that might interest other members, please email brief details to the [Editor](#).



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

SHA BULLETIN

All members should have received issue 32 of the *Bulletin* in early October 2019.



Members with valid email addresses should also have received a temporary link to a digital version.

Contributions to the *Bulletin* are most welcome, including letters which can be on any aspect of the Society or the history of astronomy. Issue 33 is due in April 2020.

Back issues (except for the last 2 years) and guidelines for contributions are available from the [Bulletin web page](#).

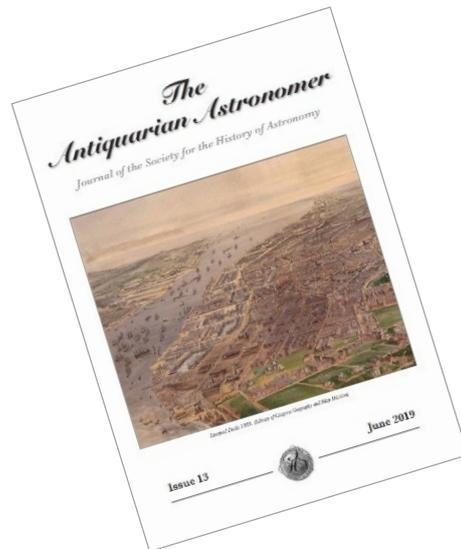
It is usually prudent to check with the Editors before preparing items where duplication is a possibility (e.g. book reviews). Back issues of the *Bulletin* (and its predecessor: *SHA Newsletter*) are now indexed on the Abstract service of SAO/ NASA. Enter “SHAN” as the ‘Journal Code’ at

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

Scanned copies of the original articles are also accessible in the same way.

THE ANTIQUARIAN ASTRONOMER

Issue 13 of *The Antiquarian Astronomer* was published on time in June 2019. All members should have received a copy.



It has papers on the Liverpool Observatory, William Herschel’s correspondence with German astronomers, the pioneer female meteor observer Fiammetta Wilson, an early astronomical society in Halifax, and the Stonyhurst College expedition to the total eclipse of 1914 that was nearly scuppered by the outbreak of World War I. The front cover (above) shows Liverpool Docks in the middle of the 19th century

Note: early issues of *The Antiquarian Astronomer* have been online at NASA’s ADS service since the start of 2015. Type “antas” into the box at the top marked Journal Name/Code on this page

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

The following issue is due in June 2020. Members and others wishing to submit material for future issues of *The Antiquarian Astronomer* should contact Ian Ridpath (Editor) at ian@ianridpath.com. Guidance for authors and some back issues can be found on [The Antiquarian Astronomer web page](#).

SHA LIBRARY NEWS

The SHA library now has over 2600 books dedicated to the history of astronomy and related subjects, numerous journals, as well as miscellaneous items including letters, meeting programmes, conference proceedings and the like.

Outside the legal deposit libraries, the SHA Library has one of the most extensive history of astronomy collections in any library in the British Isles. It is *unique* in having a collecting policy, totally focussed on history of astronomy, that includes not only the latest popular and scholarly works, but also the active acquisition of second-hand books, astronomical ephemera, and the preservation of the works of lesser known British astronomers and authors.

Some of the library's new additions:

Books purchased:

Daugherty, **Dante and the early astronomer : science, adventure, and a Victorian woman who opened the heavens** (2019)

Dollfus, **The Great Refractor of Meudon Observatory** (2013)

Elbers, **The Rise of Radio Astronomy in the Netherlands : the people and the politics** (2017)

Jones, **Yearbook of Astronomy 2020** (2019)

Maunder, **The total solar eclipse, 1900; report of the expeditions organized by the British astronomical association to observe the total solar eclipse of 1900, May 28** (1901)

Quaritch, **A catalogue of books & periodicals on astronomy, chemistry, electricity, engineering, mathematics, mining, navigation, physics etc: Catalogue 603** (1942)

Quaritch, **A catalogue of books & journals on astronomy, chemistry, mathematics, medicine & surgery, physics, etc. Including sections on aeronautics, medical botany, mining, mineralogy & crystallography, photography: Catalogue 724** (1954)

Quaritch, **A catalogue of books & periodicals on medicine & herbals, astronomy, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, meteorology, mining, photography, physics, etc., ranging from the 15th to the 20th century: Catalogue 700** (1952)

Quaritch, **Astronomy and related subjects: Catalogue 1138** (1991)

Quaritch, **Astronomy & mathematics: Catalogue 1206** (1995)

Quaritch, **Astronomy and optics: Catalogue 1317** (2004)

Science Museum, **Historic astronomical books: Science Museum book exhibition number three** (1954)

Books donated:

Dawson's of Pall Mall, **Astronomy: ancient and modern** (1965)

Theokas, **Goodricke's Time** (2017)

Whall, **Handy book of the stars used in navigation : how to find them, and how to use them in getting the ship's position and correction of the compass** (1889)

The Universe of Ulugh Beg (2019)

Library opening schedule for the coming months:

Wed 6 November 2019

Wed 4 December 2019

If there is a specific date you would like to use the library let us know and we will try to accommodate this. On library open days the door should be open between 10am and 3pm, though invariably it is open between 9am and 6pm - but please do [contact](#) the library in advance of a visit.

The revised catalogue of books in the library is available and a link to this can be found on the library page of the SHA's [website](#) as a downloadable Excel spreadsheet – if you have trouble viewing the catalogue let us know and we can arrange to send it to you in an alternative format.

If you want to know more about the library or its stock, or if you'd like help with your research or finding a book or article, or other library-related matter, please do contact [James](#) and [Carolyn](#) who would love to hear from you.

[James Dawson](#), SHA Librarian



BMI (Birmingham): home of the SHA Library

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



A Very Special Chairman's Chat

As this *e-News* goes to press, the Society has received the very sad news of the passing in October of founder and inspirational first secretary Stuart Williams. Along with Ken Goward, and encouraged by SHA President Allan Chapman and his now famous volume *The Victorian Amateur Astronomer*, Stuart was a very important part in the establishment of the SHA between 2001-02 and at its first meeting in Oxford during the summer of 2002. What Stuart did not do for the society, can be written on the back of a very small postage stamp, and sadly I did not have the privilege to know him as well as many members. However I do remember him making me very welcome when we met for the first time at that first Oxford meeting. Stuart held many SHA council posts, as well as Secretary; he acted as Treasurer during Ken's Goward's illness, and also worked tirelessly as research librarian and later took over the running of the library. He continued to submit his own research information to the SHA Survey, and was always on hand to give presentations at SHA meetings and events. I'm sure there are many of you that will have much more fine memories of Stuart than me. I have no hesitation in my personal belief that his long term legacy is the Society we have to-day, of which I have the honour of being Chairman and member. If you wish to add your own appreciation of Stuart, please go to the SHA website www.shastro.org.uk, and leave a message on the online book of condolence. I send my own message of condolence to Stuart's family and many friends. RIP Stuart.

Gerard Gilligan.

From SHA e-News v.1 no. 7 (July 2009):

"A disappearing world of amateur astronomy – The Chambers Dictionary in part defines the term 'amateur' as 'an enthusiast or admirer'; 'a person who practises something for the love of it. Not as a profession.'

"Astronomy owes much to the amateur, whether they be wealthy 'grand amateur' astronomer of the days before this science became a paid profession, or the ingenious and often quirky amateur astronomer of, dare I say it, the 'Patrick Moore Era'.

"But we are now living in a time when there is a very real need to make the effort to preserve a disappearing world of amateur astronomy. One defined by remarkable sometimes Heath-Robinson-esque ingenuity and the willingness to build complex equipment, especially telescopes, from scratch. A world endangered by a flood of cheap, good quality telescopes from the East, which while opening astronomy to more people than ever before, offer no incentive to build and experiment.

"As historians, professional or amateur, it is our duty, surely, not let this world disappear unrecorded"

Stuart Williams



**Stuart Williams
(1959-2019)**

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 Secretary** (Laura Carroll): lauracarroll55@hotmail.com

SHA ON THE ROAD

Recent events at which the SHA has had a stall include:

- **Local and Family History Fair, Birmingham**, Midlands Art Centre (MAC) in Cannon Hill Park (Sat 28 Sep 2019)
- **Apollo Exhibition**, Liverpool Library (20 Jul 2019)

If you are aware of future events, which would be suitable for a SHA stall, please let us know.



SHA stall at the Birmingham Family History Fair

SHA RESEARCH GRANTS

SHA Small Research Grants are available for the period **1 Nov 2018 to 31 Oct 2019** and applications are solicited. The total amount allocated by the Council for the current round is £1500. These grants are made available to provide limited financial support for members' research.

Links to the [application form and regulations](#) for applicants are available on the Society's Web site. Applications must be made using the application form. Appended to the regulations are some guidelines for completing the case for support that forms part of every application.

MONDAY LUNCHTIME TALKS AT THE B.M.I.

The *Birmingham and Midland Institute* which is the home to the SHA's Library, runs a lecture programme on Mondays over lunchtime for members of the BMI and for other interested people. The BMI is looking for speakers for the lecture programme. Talks can be on any topic and should be about 45 minutes in length with some time for questions; the audience ranges

from 20-40 people. It would be good if SHA members would volunteer to give a talk as part of this programme. For further information, please contact me.

James Dawson, SHA Librarian
library@shastro.org.uk

INFORMATION WANTED

(1) Thomas Strode (1814-79)

I follow your *Facebook* pages regarding astronomers of the past. I am enquiring on behalf of a good friend of mine who is asking about a relative of his who was a minor amateur astronomer in the 19th century. I am wondering if you might be able to help with any information?

He was, **Thomas Strode**, born 1814, died 1879, buried in Dorset. This is all of the information we have.

If you are able to enlighten us on the above mentioned gentleman we would be very excited and grateful indeed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With very best wishes from New Zealand,

Andy Williams

(2) 'Romsey Model' Observatories

I work for *Heritage New Zealand*, the country's historic heritage agency. We are currently working on a heritage listing of the ruins of a ca.1867 wooden astronomical observatory in the Wairarapa region, which was built by a retired civil servant called Stephen Carkeek. See here for more information and photographs https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320614518_Stephen_Carkeek_and_New_Zealand's_Oldest_Surviving_Observatory

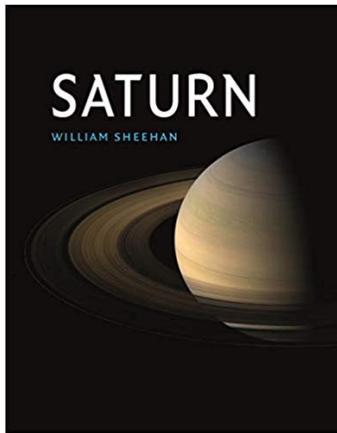
This building is believed to be the oldest surviving astronomical observatory in New Zealand. It shares many characteristics with what is known as the Romsey Observatory model, which was devised by English vicar and astronomer Edward Berthon in the early 1860s.

I am very interested to know whether any nineteenth century Romsey buildings or similar simple wooden observatories survive in the UK. This building is certainly rare in the New Zealand context and I am investigating whether this rarity extends internationally. I have also emailed *Historic England* with the same information request.

Kerryn Pollock

FORTHCOMING BOOKS NOTICED

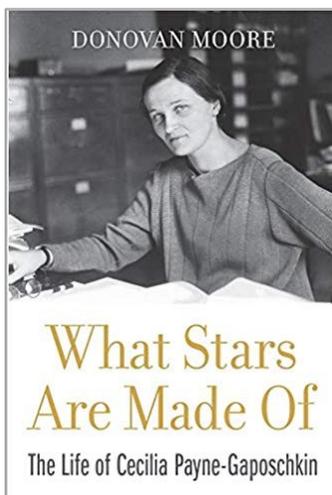
[Saturn](#), by William Sheehan (Reaktion Books), Oct 2019, pp.224 (hardback, £25.00), ISBN 9781789141535



Saturn is the showcase of the Solar System. It may not be the largest of the planets, nor the smallest, nor even the only planet with rings. But it is among the most stunningly beautiful objects in the sky, and is always breathtaking when seen in a telescope.

This is a beautifully illustrated, authoritative overview of the entire history of humankind's fascination with the ringed planet, from the first low-resolution views of Galileo, Huygens and other early observers with telescopes to the most recent discoveries by the spacecraft Cassini, which studied the planet at close range between 2004 and 2017. The book describes the planet from inside out, details the complicated system of rings and their interaction with Saturn's bevy of satellites, and considers how Saturn formed and the role it played in the early history of the Solar System. Featuring the latest research and a spectacular array of images, it will appeal to the wide audience for astronomy and popular science.

[What Stars Are Made Of: The Life of Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin](#), by Donovan Moore (Harvard University Press), Mar 2020, pp.304 (hardback, £23.95), ISBN 9780674237377



The history of science is replete with women getting little notice for their groundbreaking discoveries. Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin, a tireless innovator who correctly theorized the substance of stars, was one of them.

It was not easy being a woman of ambition in early twentieth-century England, much less one who wished to be a

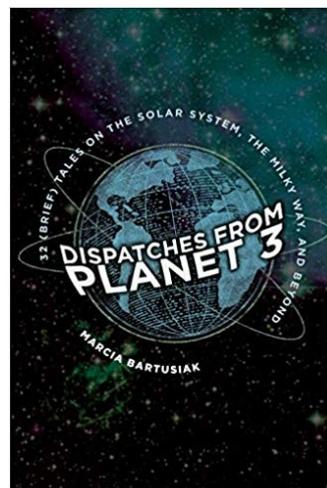
scientist. Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin overcame

prodigious obstacles to become a woman of many firsts: the first to receive a Ph.D. in astronomy from Radcliffe College, the first promoted to full professor at Harvard, the first to head a department there. And, in what has been called “the most brilliant Ph.D. thesis ever written in astronomy”, she was the first to describe what stars are made of.

Payne-Gaposchkin lived in a society that did not know what to make of a determined schoolgirl who wanted to know everything. She was derided in college and refused a degree. As a graduate student, she faced formidable skepticism. Revolutionary ideas rarely enjoy instantaneous acceptance, but the learned men of the astronomical community found hers especially hard to take seriously. Though welcomed at the Harvard College Observatory, she worked for years without recognition or status. Still, she accomplished what every scientist yearns for: discovery. She calculated the atomic composition of stars—only to be told that her conclusions were wrong by the very man who would later show her to be correct.

In *What Stars Are Made Of*, Donovan Moore brings this remarkable woman to life through extensive archival research, family interviews, and photographs. Moore retraces Payne-Gaposchkin's steps with visits to cramped observatories and night-time bicycle rides through the streets of Cambridge, England. The result is a story of devotion and tenacity that speaks powerfully to our own time.

[Dispatches from Planet 3: Thirty-Two \(Brief\) Tales on the Solar System, the Milky Way, and Beyond](#), by Marcia Bartusiak (Yale University Press), Mar 2020, pp.320 (paperback, £12.19), ISBN 9780300248302

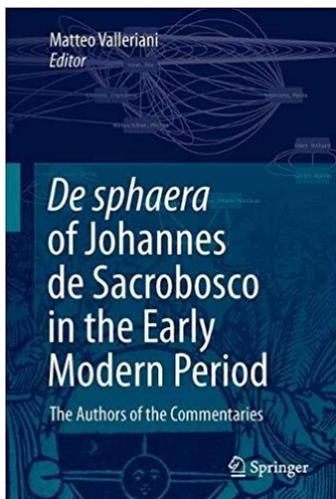


The galaxy, the multiverse, and the history of astronomy are explored in this engaging compilation of cosmological tales. In thirty-two concise and engrossing essays, the author provides a deeper understanding of the nature of the universe and those who strive to uncover its mysteries.

Bartusiak shares the back stories for many momentous astronomical discoveries, including the contributions of such pioneers as Beatrice Tinsley, with her groundbreaking research in galactic evolution, and Jocelyn Bell Burnell, the scientist who first discovered radio pulsars. An endlessly fascinating

collection that you can dip into in any order, these pieces will transport you to ancient Mars, when water flowed freely across its surface; to the collision of two black holes, a cosmological event that released fifty times more energy than was radiating from every star in the universe; and to the beginning of time itself (note: a hardback version appeared in 2018).

[De sphaera of Johannes de Sacrobosco in the Early Modern Period: The Authors of the Commentaries](#), by Matteo Valleriani (Springer), Nov 2019, pp.388 (hardback, £44.99), ISBN 9783030308322



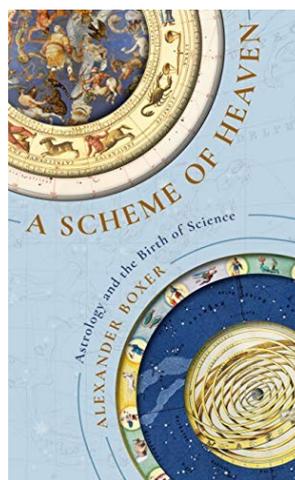
This 'open access' book explores commentaries on an influential text of pre-Copernican astronomy in Europe. It features essays that take a close look at key intellectuals and how they engaged with the main ideas of this qualitative introduction to geocentric cosmology.

Johannes de Sacrobosco compiled his *Tractatus*

de sphaera during the thirteenth century in the frame of his teaching activities at the then recently founded University of Paris. It soon became a mandatory text all over Europe. As a result, a tradition of commentaries to the text was soon established and flourished until the second half of the 17th century. Here, readers will find an informative overview of these commentaries complete with a rich context. The essays explore the educational and social backgrounds of the writers. They also detail how their careers developed after the publication of their commentaries, the institutions and patrons they were affiliated with, what their agenda was, and whether and how they actually accomplished it.

[A Scheme of Heaven: Astrology and the Birth of Science](#), by Alexander Boxer (Profile Books), Jan 2020, pp.320 (hardback, £20.00), ISBN 9781781259634

Despite a resurgence in popularity, horoscopes are generally considered to be pseudoscience today - but they were once a cutting-edge scientific tool. In this ingenious work of history, data scientist Alexander Boxer examines a treasure trove of esoteric classical sources to expose the deep imaginative framework by which - for millennia - we made sense of our fates. Astrology, he argues, was the ancient world's most ambitious applied mathematics problem, a grand data-



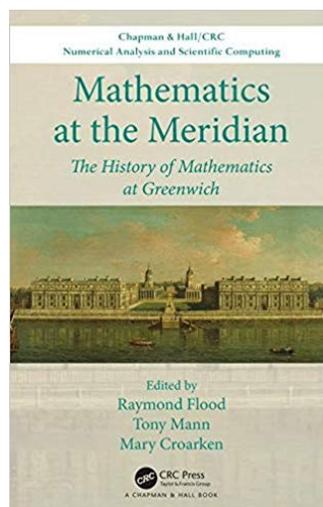
analysis enterprise sustained by some of history's most brilliant minds, from Ptolemy to al-Kindi to Kepler.

A Scheme of Heaven explores the wonderful subtleties of astrological ideas. Telling the stories of their inventors and most influential exponents, Boxer puts them through their paces using modern data sets - finding that the

methods of today's scientists are often uncomfortably close to those of astrology's ancient sages.

[Mathematics at the Meridian: The History of Mathematics at Greenwich](#), by Raymond Flood, Tony Mann, Mary Croarken (eds.) (Chapman & Hall/CRC), Nov 2019, pp.242 (paperback, £21.99), ISBN 9780367362720

Greenwich has been a centre for scientific computing since the foundation of the Royal Observatory in 1675.



Early Astronomers Royal gathered astronomical data with the purpose of enabling navigators to compute their longitude at sea. Nevil Maskelyne in the 18th century organised the work of computing tables for the Nautical Almanac, anticipating later methods used in safety-critical computing systems. The 19th century saw influential critiques of Charles

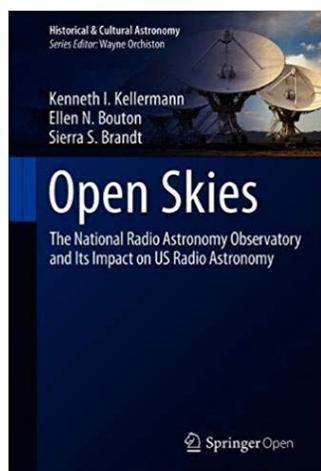
Babbage's mechanical calculating engines, and in the 20th century Leslie Comrie and others pioneered the automation of computation. The arrival of the Royal Naval College in 1873 and the University of Greenwich in 1999 has brought more mathematicians and different kinds of mathematics to Greenwich. In the 21st century computational mathematics has found many new applications. This book presents an account of the mathematicians who worked at Greenwich and their achievements.

A scholarly but accessible history of mathematics at Greenwich, from the seventeenth century to the present day, with each chapter written by an expert in the field

The book will appeal to astronomical and naval historians as well as historians of mathematics and scientific computing.

[Open Skies: The National Radio Astronomy Observatory and Its Impact on US Radio](#)

[Astronomy](#), by Kenneth Kellermann, Ellen Bouton, Sierra Smith (eds) (Springer), Mar 2020, pp.340 (hardback, £44.99), ISBN 9783030323448

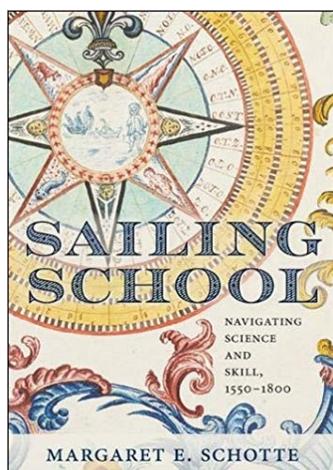


This ‘open access’ book on the history of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory covers the scientific discoveries and technical innovations of late 20th century radio astronomy with particular attention to the people and institutions involved. The authors have made extensive use of the NRAO Archives, which

contain an unparalleled collection of documents pertaining to the history of radio astronomy, including the institutional records of NRAO as well as the personal papers of many of the pioneers of U.S. radio astronomy. Technical details and extensive citations to original sources are given in notes for the more technical readers, but are not required for an understanding of the body of the book.

RECENT BOOKS MISSED

[Sailing School: Navigating Science and Skill, 1550-1800](#), by Margaret E. Schotte (Johns Hopkins University Press), Sep 2019, pp.320 (hardback, £44.50), ISBN 9781421429533



Throughout the Age of Exploration, European maritime communities bent on colonial and commercial expansion embraced the complex mechanics of celestial navigation. They developed schools, textbooks, and instruments to teach the new mathematical techniques to sailors. As these experts debated the value of theory and

practice, memory and mathematics, they created hybrid models that would have a lasting impact on applied science.

In *Sailing School*, a richly illustrated comparative study of this transformative period, Margaret E. Schotte charts more than two hundred years of navigational history as she investigates how mariners solved the challenges of navigating beyond sight of land. She begins by outlining the influential sixteenth-century Iberian model for training and certifying nautical practitioners. She takes us into a Dutch bookshop stocked with maritime manuals and a French trigonometry lesson devoted to the idea that “navigation is nothing more than a right triangle”. The story culminates at the close of the eighteenth century with a young British naval officer who managed to keep his damaged vessel afloat for two long months, thanks largely to lessons he learned as a keen student.

This is the first study to trace the importance, for the navigator’s art, of the world of print. Schotte interrogates a wide variety of archival records from six countries, including hundreds of published textbooks and never-before-studied manuscripts crafted by practitioners themselves. Ultimately, *Sailing School* helps us to rethink the relationship among maritime history, the Scientific Revolution, and the rise of print culture during a period of unparalleled innovation and global expansion.

Note: *The descriptions of the books above are largely taken from the publishers. They are not reviews and do not imply endorsement by the SHA.*

WILBUR APPLEBAUM 1927-2019

SHA members will be sad to hear of the death of the American historian of science, Professor Wilbur Applebaum. He was one of the foremost experts on the life and work of the Lancashire astronomer, Jeremiah Horrocks. At the time of his death Wilbur was professor emeritus at Illinois Institute of Technology, where he taught the history of science for twenty-five years. His research interests and publications centred on seventeenth-century astronomy and the Scientific Revolution.

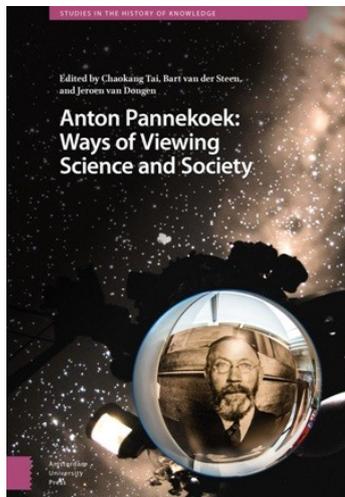
He created and edited *The Encyclopedia of the Scientific Revolution from Copernicus to Newton* (2000), and wrote *The Scientific Revolution and the Foundations of Modern Science* (2005) and *Venus Seen on the Sun: The First Observation of a Transit of Venus by Jeremiah Horrocks* (2012), which included his modern translation of Horrocks’s *Venus in Sole Visa*. He served in a consulting capacity for the Museum of Sci-

ence and Industry and the Alder Planetarium in Chicago, IL. He is survived by three children and three grandchildren.

WEB-LINKS NOTICED

Anton Pannekoek: Ways of Viewing Science and Society

Anton Pannekoek (1873-1960), prominent astronomer and socialist theorist, stood at the nexus of the revolutions in politics, science and the arts of the early twentieth century. His astronomy was uniquely visual and highly innovative, while his politics were radical. This *free* e-book from Amsterdam University Press, [Anton Pannekoek: Ways of Viewing Science and Society](#), collects essays on Pannekoek and his contemporaries at the crossroads of political history, the history of science and art history.



Obituaries of BAA Members

The website of the BAA's Historical Section now hosts [links to the obituaries](#) of many hundreds (possibly 1000s) of BAA members, thanks largely to the efforts of Bill Barton.

This is a very valuable resource for anyone doing biographical research projects in connection with the history of (mainly UK-based) astronomy.

BAA HISTORICAL SECTION

Lee Macdonald is standing down after long service as Assistant Director of the Historical Section of the British Astronomical Association. Fellow SHA member, Bill Burton will be taking over. This was announced by the current Director, Mike Frost, at the SHA Autumn Conference.

Mike also reported that the next Historical Section meeting would probably be in November 2020.

JEREMIAH HORROCKS SCULPTURE

An informal group of Jeremiah Horrocks enthusiasts is working with a sculptor to create at least one life-size bronze cast of him - the finished sculpture will resemble the macquette already created by the same artist. The group is exploring several sites in Liverpool - the astronomer's birthplace - to locate the finished sculpture and there is a possibility of a second cast being housed in Preston - near Much Hoole where he spent the part of his all too short life.



It is anticipated that the overall project will last two years. It will be launched, with a crowdfunding campaign, on **30 November 2019** - close to the 380th anniversary of the Transit of Venus that Jeremiah predicted. [The event](#) will be held from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm in the *Hornby Library* at Liverpool Central Library on William Brown Street

Speakers on the day will include Allan Chapman and Frank Cottrell Boyce.

The group would welcome the support of SHA members and, hopefully, their attendance on the day. It would also like to share information about the project and campaign.

For further info, please contact [Gerard Gilligan](#)

ROBERT W SMITH TO RECEIVE PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY

The Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) has selected Dr. Robert W. Smith as the recipient of its 2020 [LeRoy E. Doggett Prize](#) for Historical Astronomy. The Doggett Prize is awarded biennially to an individual who has significantly influenced the field through a career-long effort. Over the last five decades [Robert Smith](#) has written many well-regarded books, and generated groundbreaking articles on the history of cosmology in the 19th and 20th centuries.

OTHER MEETINGS, COURSES & EXHIBITIONS NOTICED (non-SHA)

King's Observatory, Kew

21 Oct – 27 Nov 2019 at Kew, Richmond, TW9 2SB (Entrance off the A316. Access is by way of the shared driveway with the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club)



For only the second time ever, the King's Observatory is again open to the public for a limited period between 21 Oct and 27 Nov 2019 inclusive – weekdays only.

All tours will be accompanied by a guide. Tour times are 10.00 hrs, 11.30 hrs, 13.00 hrs, 14.30 hrs and 16.00 hrs. The charge is £15.00 per person with a 25% discount for senior citizens, students and children under 16. Please try to arrive at least 5 minutes early as tours commence on the advertised time.

Tickets for these tours must be purchased online via [this website](#).

The Art & Science of the Moon

14-15 Nov 2019 at National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of humanity's first footsteps on another world, Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG) will host a major exhibition exploring our evolving relationship with the Moon across times and cultures. *The Moon* (19 Jul 2019- 5 Jan 2020) will present a scientific and cultural history of our nearest celestial neighbour, exploring its role as a mirror for humanity's dreams, obsessions and endeavours.

[An associated conference](#) considers cross cultural relationships with the Moon and invites various responses to our cosmic companion. In keeping with RMG's interest in interrogating the collision of science, history and art, *The Art and Science of the Moon* will explore how the Moon's motions and phases have

influenced human activities, beliefs and behaviours; how sustained scrutiny and mapping of the lunar surface have enabled us to understand more about ourselves and our place in the universe.

The plenary lecture will be given by Professor Paul Murdin, Senior Fellow Emeritus, Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge.

1919 Eclipse Centenary

6 Nov 2019 will be the centenary of the joint meeting of the Royal Society and the Royal Astronomical Society when the results of astronomical observations that confirmed Einstein's General Theory of Relativity were announced for the very first time. To celebrate this anniversary, [a public meeting](#) will be held at the Royal Astronomical Society at 6.30 pm on 6 Nov 2019. Speakers will include: Professor Daniel Kennefick, Ron Cowen, Dr Meghan Gray, Dr Carolin Crawford. For other events see [website](#).

CFP: Writing a Cosmos: European Literature and Popular Astronomy, 1890-1950

6-7 Feb 2020, at MDRN, KU Leuven

This two-day symposium wants to reflect on the many different literary responses to a universe that had been newly imagined and interpreted by astronomers between 1890 and 1950, so as to gauge the role literature played in mediating astronomical knowledge and exploring new ways of imagining the cosmos. The conference aims to arrive at a better understanding of the convergences between physical, cultural, and literary practices that developed around the new astronomical discoveries between 1890 and 1950. It homes in on writings from different registers—highbrow, avant-garde, middlebrow and more popular forms of literature—as well as on writings from various European cultures and languages, in order to determine how European literature of the modernist period reflects on astronomy as a stimulus and transformative force in fiction.

Leeds Astronomical Society 160th Anniversary Meeting

Sat 9 Nov 2019 at Quaker Meeting House, Carlton Hill, 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DX

A meeting to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the original founding of Leeds Astronomical Society in 1859. Speakers include Dr Allan Chapman and Prof.

Brad Gibson. Entrance £5 (lunch included). See [Leeds AS website](#) for contacts to reserve a place.

Mathematics & Astronomy in pre-Enlightenment Scotland

23-24 Nov 2019, St Andrews University

A [workshop on Mathematical and Astronomical Practices in pre-Enlightenment Scotland and her European Networks](#). It will focus on Scottish natural philosophy and mathematics, and their innovative developments between 1550 and 1750. The astronomical observatory James Gregory founded at the University of St Andrews in 1673, six years behind Paris, but two years ahead of Greenwich, is just one example of relevant institutional initiatives that were taking place in 17th-century Scotland. The question of how scientific innovations flourished in this context has been little addressed.

Stories of the Sky

11-12 Jul 2020, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter, Wales

[18th Sophia Centre conference](#). One of the enduring features of human culture is the telling of stories about the sky. Over the millennia people have wondered how the sky may contain significance, reveal meaning, predict the future, reflect on social structures and mores, and explore the ways in which sky and earth harmonise and mirror each other.

This academic conference invites proposals to speak on how and why we tell stories about the sky, and the nature, meaning and purpose of such stories.

Gerard Turner Memorial Lecture

Friday 15th November 2019, 6 pm, Society of Antiquaries, Mayfair, London, W1J 0BE

‘Fakes, Replicas and Reconstructions: their place in scientific research of early modern instruments’ is the subject of this annual lecture of the Scientific Instrument Society. The speaker is Dr Nicolàs de Hilster (Netherlands).

The depth of research of early modern instruments greatly depends on their availability in collections. For this several modern day authors have created replicas and reconstructions to assist them in it. But what is a proper replica or reconstruction? How well should it be made and what is the risk of creating a (future) fake in the process? The 2019 Gerald Turner Medal Lecture will deal with the sometimes fuzzy boundaries be-

tween these three categories. The differences between a replica and a reconstruction will be discussed as well as the chance of instruments migrating from a replica or reconstruction towards a fake. It will be shown that research and even publications can result in fakes, but at the same time can assist in detecting them. Original instruments can become fakes while period instruments can, depending on the definition, be fakes on their own. But as they can significantly contribute to our knowledge of early modern instruments, fakes, replicas and reconstructions should have a more solid basis in this kind of research.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to give a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined since the previous issue of *SHA e-News*:

M. Jean-Claude Berçu FRANCE (Hon)

Dr Fabio Silva BRENTFORD

Mr Richard Severn NOTTINGHAM

Mr Mudford NOTTINGHAM

SHA CALENDAR 2019

| MONTH | SHA EVENT OR PUBLICATION | VENUE |
|-------------|--|--------------------|
| 2019 | | |
| JAN | | |
| FEB | SHA e-News (1-5 Feb) | |
| MAR | | |
| APR | SHA Bulletin 31 (1 Apr) SHA Spring Conference (12-13 Apr) – UK-French special | Oxford |
| MAY | SHA e-News (1-5 May) | |
| JUN | The Antiquarian Astronomer (Jun) | |
| JUL | SHA Summer Picnic (29 Jun) | Sidmouth, Devon |
| AUG | SHA e-News (1-5 Aug) | |
| SEP | | |
| OCT | SHA Bulletin 32 (1 Oct) SHA Autumn Conference & AGM (26 Oct) | Birmingham |
| NOV | SHA e-News (1-5 Nov) | |
| DEC | | |

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