



The Antiquarian Astronomer

Journal of the Society for the History of Astronomy

Guide for authors

The Antiquarian Astronomer is published once a year by the Society for the History of Astronomy, usually in June. Our aim is to publish as much of the material submitted as possible, and with that in mind the editor will provide help as necessary. For a brief description of the type of material we publish, please see [this page](#).

Papers should be up to 10,000 words in length, but can be longer in cases of exceptional research. Very short papers (c.1,500 words) are also welcomed.

For a couple of sample papers, see [here](#) and [here](#).

To help you in preparing and submitting your manuscript, we offer the following guidelines.

1. File formats

Please submit your paper in electronic format. We can read .docx, .doc, .odt, and Apple Pages files, along with several other common formats including PDF. If in doubt, please submit a test file. Please use the Courier (typewriter-like) font, as in this document.

2. Structure

Our papers begin with a synopsis or abstract of about 150 words. They end with a conclusion or summary, followed by any acknowledgements you may wish to make. Then come references and notes, and finally a brief biography of the author(s) of about 100 words.

3. Subheadings

Please divide your paper into sections with subheadings. Main subheadings are printed in **bold** and numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. Second-tier subheadings are printed in *italic* and labelled 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc. Use of subheadings helps you organize your paper, and also makes cross-referencing within the paper easier (e.g., 'As we saw in Section 2.1...').

4. Spelling

We use Oxford spelling and also the so-called Oxford comma, which is a comma before the final 'and' in a list of items (for example, 'William, Caroline, and John Herschel'). The editor will ensure consistent styling is applied. Do not correct mis-spellings in quoted text; add a '(sic)' to demonstrate that it is not your error, unless there are so many that it is easier to say 'spelling as in original'.

5. Dates

We use the International Standard (ISO 8601) date format, i.e. year, month, day. However, when quoting from printed text, retain whatever style is in the original, for spelling and dates.

6. References and notes

Papers should be extensively referenced, with additional endnotes if you wish. Our references and endnotes are numbered sequentially in the order they appear in the text. If the same reference appears twice in succession, we use 'Ibid'; if it reappears again later, we use 'op. cit.', with the previous reference number. Please give individual page numbers in books or papers where appropriate, particularly if quoting from the original. Here are a couple of examples of our referencing system:

Hingley, P. D., 'Urania's Mirror – a 170-year old mystery solved?', *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, 104 (1994), 238–40.

Clerke, Agnes, *A Popular History of Astronomy During the Nineteenth Century* (A. & C. Black, 4th ed. 1902), 152–54.

7. Illustrations

Illustrations can be a difficulty. What looks good on a computer screen is not necessarily suitable for publication. We aim for a resolution of 300 dpi (dots per inch) in the final printed version. Sometimes a little arithmetic is required to work out what the final resolution will be. For example, a 72 dpi original will look fine if reduced to around 25% its original size ($72 \times 4 = 288$, which is close enough to 300 dpi to be acceptable). The editor will advise.

We are able to print in colour, if the subject requires it, but otherwise we may convert to black and white. Please submit low-res files for initial consideration.

We can help with sourcing images, clearing copyright, and paying fees where necessary. We welcome your own images, of suitable quality.

Ian Ridpath, Editor, *The Antiquarian Astronomer*
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