

## ***Antiquarian Astronomer* Style 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 be as welcoming to authors as possible and with that in mind the editor will provide assistance as necessary.

### **Your Paper**

Papers should usually be around 10,000 words, but shorter papers are welcome and papers up to 15,000 words can occasionally be accepted at the editor's discretion if the additional material is warranted. Papers should be submitted by email as a Word file or an RTF file. Please do *not* send a PDF file or non-standard formats such as LaTeX. Any standard font (such as Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri, or Univers) is acceptable and the font size should be 12. Use single spacing. Avoid indenting the paragraphs (this will be added at the layout stage), but leave a blank line between paragraphs. Please number the pages sequentially.

Our papers begin with a synopsis or abstract of about 150 words, which should be in italics. The synopsis gives a general overview of the paper, and also explains its rationale. The papers 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.

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....'). We would be grateful if you could include second-tier subheadings as they make the text easier to read.

Tables should be numbered sequentially and put at the end of the manuscript, not in the text, but they should be mentioned in the text ("see Table 4") and/or a call-out at the appropriate place in the text.

Please use a formal register when writing your text and avoid colloquial language. In particular avoid colloquial contractions such as 'don't' and 'can't'.

### **Citation Style**

We use endnotes and the Chicago author-date citation style. This uses the American style of double quote marks and punctuation within the quotes. We have retained this to avoid complications with reference management systems (as and when used). Use the shortened title, not op. cit. or ibid.

For **journal citations**, the style is:

Michael Hoskin, "Herschel's 40ft Reflector: Funding and Functions," *Journal for the History of Astronomy* 34 (2003): 1-32.

Part numbers should be avoided unless the pagination between issues is non-consecutive. If a part number is used, the citation becomes:

Michael Hoskin, "Herschel's 40ft Reflector: Funding and Functions," *Journal for the History of Astronomy* 34, no. 1 (2003): 1-32.

If a quotation is cited or a specific page referred to, just put the number of the page in question (e.g. 26). The shortened form is the first few words (often the words before the colon):

Hoskin, "Herschel's 40ft Reflector," 26.

For **book citations**, the style is:

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

If the date of publication is uncertain (as is often the case), use the copyright year. If the year is known, but not given in the publication, use [1902]. If there is no indication of the publication year, use n.d.

The shortened form is the first few words:

Clerke, *Popular History*, 156.

For a **chapter or a paper in a book**, the style is:

David L. Block, "Georges Lemaître and Stigler's Law of Eponymy," in *Georges Lemaître: Life, Science and Legacy*, ed. Rodney D. Holder and Simon Mitton (Springer, 2012), 94.

Note that the page range is not required and if frequent reference is made to a multi-author volume, it is usually simpler just to cite the whole book without reference to the individual chapters/papers. For references to chapters in a volume by a single author, just refer to the chapter number in the text or just say chapter two (of the given book) in the citation.

For a **translated book** the style is:

Günther Buttmann, *The Shadow of the Telescope: A Biography of John Herschel*, trans. by B. E. J. Pagel (Lutterworth Press, 1974).

But the translator is not always stated and for scientific works, the translator is not essential.

For **newspaper and magazine articles**, the style is:

"Astronomers at Middletown," *Boston Evening Globe*, 23 January 1925.

Give the author, if known.

For a **dissertation**, the style is:

Nicole Infanta Keller, "Making Her Case: Gendered Evidence and Women's Astronomical Writing of the Long Eighteenth Century" (PhD diss., Northeastern University, 2018).

The term dissertation is preferred (even for British theses) as the term thesis in the USA implies a more minor project (e.g. for a master's degree).

As **webpages** are often ephemeral or the location is subsequently changed, just cite the title of the item, the title of the website and the address of the home page, not the whole web-link:

Peter Morris, "Double Star Database," Havering Astronomical Society website, [havastro.co.uk](http://havastro.co.uk).

When citing books consulted online, just add the address of the main website or the name of the database after the bibliographical details.

For further details (and other cases such as interviews), please consult the Chicago Style Guide:

[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html)

but note we do not use bibliographies.

### **Illustrations**

Illustrations can be problematic. What looks good on a computer screen is *not* usually suitable for publication. We aim for a resolution of 300 dpi (dots per inch) in the final printed version. This will usually be a rather large file (c. 1 MB or even higher). Regarding the format, TIFF is better than PNG and PNG is better than JPG, but any of these formats are suitable. The highest possible resolution images should be provided at the earliest opportunity to enable the editor to determine what has to be done. Please provide complete captions at the outset, including the sources and any necessary credit lines. Do *not* add endnotes (or footnotes) to captions. Put the figure numbers in the text or if not appropriate, provide a call-out for the correct position in the text for the layout editor. Please do NOT include your images in the paper (not least to keep the file size down), but send the images separately.

### **Copyright Release and Permission to Use**

It is the responsibility of the author to ascertain if a printed work is still in copyright and to obtain written permission for using text from it if it is. Copyright exists in the UK for seventy years after the author's death and there is no sunset clause as there is in the USA. There is an exception for fair dealing. Unfortunately, this is not legally defined except that your use must be reasonable (it must be no more than what is required to make your point), must not deprive the author of possible income and source must be acknowledged (a citation is sufficient). Quotations are permitted, but they must not be "excessively" long. The editor will therefore assume that any quotation in your paper is fair dealing, but you must keep your quotation to the minimum necessary (a long quotation tends to be boring for the reader anyway) and

cite the source (in the usual way). However, this does not apply to manuscripts and permission *must* always be obtained in writing for quotations from unpublished sources.

It is also the author's responsibility to obtain copyright release for images used and to pay the appropriate reproduction fees in writing, which must be included when sending these images to the editor. Copyright release is not the same as right to use which applies to images which are out of copyright but are held by a picture library such as Bridgeman or Getty. The use fees are often higher than copyright release fees. It is a good idea to obtain images which do not require copyright release or a use fee (i.e. fall under Creative Commons, especially CC BY 3.0 or 4.0), but it is still important to get permission (and give a credit) as and when necessary. The print run is 350 and we are a non-commercial, not-for-profit, publisher. Your own images or a high-quality scan of an out of copyright book made by yourself are ideal. The SHA Librarian will assist by making scans from out-of-copyright books if they are in the SHA Library. There are certain sites which offer free images, including Wikipedia (but not always, please check) and the Wellcome Trust. As a non-profit organisation, we can also use images from the National Portrait Gallery free of charge. However, Royal Astronomical Society charges for the use of its images (many of which are held in the Science Photo Library). Please note that UK copyright rules for images (as in the case of printed works) are more stringent than in the USA and there is no exemption under fair dealing; we are a UK publisher, even if you are based in the USA yourself. Please consult the editor for advice and assistance.

### **Points of Style**

We use British spelling (including -ise for verbs) and we do not use the Oxford comma. Do not correct misspellings in quotes, but add '(sic)' to show it is not your error. If there are a large number of non-standard spellings (as in historic documents), it may be easier to say 'spelling as in the original'.

We use standard British style for dates (15 September 1872, not September 15, 1872, 15<sup>th</sup> September 1872 or 1872 September 15). However, when quoting from printed text, retain whatever style is in the original, for spelling and dates. Use BC (after the date) and AD (before the date), not BCE and CE. Use am and pm rather than a.m. and p.m.

Following British style, we use single quote marks for short quotes and double quote marks for quotes within a quote. However longer quotes (approximately over thirty words) should be indented without quote marks.

Do not put full stops at the end of contractions (where the middle of the word is removed such as Dr), acronyms or most abbreviations. Use US and UK, not U.S. and U.K. The abbreviations 'i.e.' and 'e.g.' should have full stops (though their use should be avoided in any case – and will normally be amended by the editor to something like 'that is to say' or 'for example', as appropriate).

Use full stops after people's initials, but try to give the first (or used) name whenever possible.

Give years of birth and death for the more significant people in the paper and give their position or profession when appropriate; for example, the historian Michael Hoskin or the astronomer Fred Hoyle.

Use italics for journal titles, newspaper titles, book titles, paintings and ships, but not foreign words.

Initial capitalisation should be avoided as far as possible. Words such as 'university', 'observatory' and 'professor' should only be initially capitalised when their name is included. So, one should say 'the Professor of Astronomy' or 'Professor Smith', but 'the professor'. Similarly, say 'Mount Palomar Observatory', but 'observatory' even when referring to a specific observatory. We capitalise Sun, Earth, Moon (referring to the Earth's moon) and Universe, but not solar system.

Ampersands should only be used when used as part of a title, such as 'Johnson & Johnson'.

Spell out numbers up to ten, but use figures above ten and when using a mixture of numbers, some of which are below ten and others above ten, to make comparison easier. However, use figures for large numbers such as million, so '1 million', not 'one million'. In keeping with common usage, we use the American billion (a thousand million, not a million million).

Enquiries to the Editor are welcomed.

Peter Morris, Editor  
September 2025  
[Aaeditor@shastro.org.uk](mailto:Aaeditor@shastro.org.uk)