

***Antiquarian Astronomer* Style Guide for Authors**

The Antiquarian Astronomer is published once a year, usually in June. We welcome contributions from every member of the history of astronomy community, academic scholars and lay enthusiasts alike.

- If you wish to submit a paper, please contact the editor at aaeditor@shastro.org.uk.
- It would be worthwhile to send an outline of your proposed paper if you have not contributed to the journal previously, so he can assess if it is appropriate for *The Antiquarian Astronomer*.
- All authors should send an advanced draft to the editor for transmission to suitable referees.
- The author should subsequently send the editor a completely *final* version of their manuscript, which would require no further alterations or additions unless requested by the editor.

Your Paper

- Papers should be around 10,000 words, but shorter articles are welcome and longer papers can be accepted at the editor's discretion.
- Manuscripts should be submitted by email as a Word or RTF file. Please do not send a PDF file or non-standard formats such as LaTeX.
- Any standard font (such as Times New Roman or Calibri) is acceptable and the font size is 12. Use single spacing.
- Do not indent the paragraphs (the indents will be added at the layout stage), but leave a blank line between paragraphs. Please number the pages sequentially.
- Your manuscript should begin with an abstract of about 150 words (please put this in italics, simply to mark it off from the main text), which summarises the paper and explains its purpose.
- After the acknowledgements, references and notes, there should be a *brief* biography of the author(s) of about 100 words.
- Please divide your paper into sections with subheadings. Main subheadings are in bold and numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. Second-tier subheadings are in italic and labelled 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc. Both types of headings should be in title case. We would be grateful if you could include second-tier subheadings as they make the text easier to read.
- Please keep your sentences and paragraphs short. Please use an appropriately formal register when writing your text and avoid colloquial language. In particular avoid colloquial contractions such as 'don't' and 'can't'. Also avoid using exclamation marks.
- 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.
- All direct quotes, paraphrases, and references to primary and secondary sources should receive an endnote citation. However, do not use endnotes excessively. There is no need to provide an endnote for every statement you make and it is better to give a page range which covers all the points you make from a given source, rather than to provide a citation for each point in turn.

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Citation Style

We use endnotes and the **Chicago Manual author-date citation style**. This uses the American style of double quotation marks and punctuation within the quotes. Use a shortened title after the first citation, 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.

The whole journal title should be given (unless it is utterly unwieldy); for example, use *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* not *MNRAS*, as not all readers will be familiar with the standard abbreviations. Part numbers should be avoided unless the pagination between issues is non-consecutive (and for the *Journal of the British Astronomical Association* as individual issues are available online). 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 or a specific page is cited, just put the number of the page in question. The **shortened form** is usually the first few words: Hoskin, "Herschel's 40ft Reflector," 26. If the author is unknown, just cite the title, we do not use Anon. (except when the author is given as 'Anonymous').

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

Agnes M. 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, use the copyright year. If the year is known, but not given in the publication, use, for example, [1902]. If there is no indication of the publication year, use n.d. If the publisher is not known, use n.p. (but for older books, the place can be used instead). The **shortened form** is Clerke, *Popular History*, 156. When citing books consulted online, just add the address of the main website or the name of the database after the bibliographical details (for example, Google Books, Internet Archive or Hathi Trust).

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

Günther Buttman, *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 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 when citing a specific page. If frequent reference is made to a multi-author volume, it is best 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 (not the title) in the text or give it in the citation.

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

“Astronomers at Middletown,” *Boston Evening Globe*, 23 January 1925. Do not give the page number. Give the author, if known.

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

Allan Chapman, “Dividing the Circle: The Development of Techniques of Precision Angular Measurement Instrument Making, and Their Relationship to the Practice of Astronomy, 1500–1850” (DPhil diss., Oxford University, 1978), 66–67.

The term dissertation is preferred (even for British theses, as above) as the term thesis in the USA implies a more minor project (such as a master’s thesis).

- **Webpages** are often ephemeral, just cite the title of the item, the title of the website and the address of the home page, not the whole URL (weblink):

Peter Morris, “Double Star Database,” Havering Astronomical Society website, havastro.co.uk.

- For an item in an **archive**, use:

Will of Martha Hall, spinster of Brentwood, Essex. 4 December 1782, Original Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills, 1484–1858, PROB 11/1098/48, The National Archives, Kew, London, UK.

Use double quotation marks only for specific titles, not for generic terms like report or letter. If cited again, a shortened form can be used.

- **Personal communications** should give the means of communication used and the date:

John Pilkington, email to author, 23 January 2026.

- **Interviews** should be cited as:

Corinne Gadsden, interview by the author, Bexhill-on-Sea, 19 January 2026.

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Illustrations

- Illustrations can be problematic. What looks good on a computer screen (usually 72 dpi) is *not* suitable for publication and we require a resolution of 300 dpi whenever possible.
- TIFF is better than PNG and PNG is better than JPG, but any of these formats is acceptable.
- Copies of the highest possible resolution of all the images should be provided at the earliest opportunity.
- Please provide complete captions at the outset, including the sources and any necessary credit lines. Do *not* add endnotes (or footnotes) to captions.
- Captions should be short, simply describing the image. Anything else should be placed in the main text (referring to the image in question if necessary). Give the date of the image if possible.
- 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* insert your images in the paper itself, but always 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 an excerpt from it. 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.
- However, quotations are permitted by so-called 'fair dealing', but it is required that they should not be 'excessively' long. You should keep your quotation to the minimum necessary and the source must be stated.
- 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 fees, the receipts for which must be included when sending these images to the editor. Copyright exists in the UK for seventy years after the death of the photographer. However, if the image was published between 1912 and 1957, it is 50 years after publication. Please also note that in the UK there is no fair dealing exemption for images.
- Copyright law for images is extremely complicated (and date-dependent). If there is any doubt about whether an image is in copyright, this website may prove useful:
<http://www.epuk.org/abcd-of-copyright/the-major-points-of-uk-copyright-legislation>.
- In addition to copyright, picture library such as Bridgeman, the Science Photo Library or Getty charge a fee for the use of images in their collections.
- It is best to obtain images which do not require copyright release or a use fee, but it is still important to get permission (and give a credit) as and when necessary.
- 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 please check that they are public domain or CC BY 3.0 or 4.0) and the Wellcome Trust. As a non-profit organisation, we can also use images from the National Portrait Gallery or the Science Museum free of charge. Please note that the Royal Astronomical Society charges for the use of its images (many of which are held in the Science Photo Library).

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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]' immediately after the error to show it is not your error. However, in quotations, retain whatever style is in the original, for spelling and dates. If there are a large number of non-standard spellings (as in historic documents), say 'spelling as in the original', either before beginning the quote or in the endnote.
- When using italics for emphasis in quotations, put 'emphasis in the original' or 'emphasis added' either after the quotation in parentheses or in the endnote.
- We use standard British style for dates (15 September 1872). When necessary, 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. Use words for centuries, for example, nineteenth century, and only use a hyphen if it is being used as an adjective, such as nineteenth-century astronomy. Use 1960s for decades (do not use an apostrophe).
- Following British usage, we use single quote marks (') for short quotations and double quote marks (") for quotes within quotations. (However, we use double quote marks for titles in citations.) Longer quotes (approximately over thirty words) should be indented without quotation marks.
- Similarly, we use an en-dash with a space on each side to separate a piece of text in a sentence rather than the American style of using an em-dash with no spaces.
- Give years of birth and death for people mentioned in the paper and give their position or profession when appropriate. Full names should be given at time of first mention when known, but if someone is not known by their first name, put the names not used in parentheses; for example, (Eleanor) Margaret Burbidge (1919–2020).
- Use italics for journal titles, newspaper titles, book titles, paintings and ships.
- 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, such as 'Professor of Astronomy John Smith' or 'Professor Smith'. Similarly, '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'. Do not superscript the ordinal indicator 'th' (etc.) after numbers. We use the American billion (a thousand million) as it is now in common use.
- Spell out numbers for the ages of people, animals, and objects. When used as an adjective, a hyphen should be inserted, as in 'a thirty-year-old astronomer'.
- In, for example, page numbers and dates, use all the digits up to 100 (and for multiples of 100), so 71–72, 100–105 and 1100–1113. For 101 to 109 (etc.), use the changed part only, so 101–8 and 808–33. For all other numbers, use two digits unless more are needed to include all changed parts, hence 235–39, 678–712, 1482–500, and 11996–2005.
- We use en-dashes to link numbers not hyphens, for example for dates, such as 1823–85. They can be generated by short-cuts, such as the Windows-key and hyphen in Windows, but the editors will replace hyphens if necessary. Hyphens are used for double-barrelled surnames and compound nouns used as adjectives, but an en-dash should be used when two different surnames are involved, for example, the Einstein–de Sitter Universe.

Peter J. T. Morris, editor
May 2026