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The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

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REPORT BY THE COUNCIL  
AND  
ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December 1950

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**Hon. Presidents**

The Right Hon. LORD ELPHINSTONE, K.T., LL.D.  
Professor W. M. H. GREAVES, F.R.S., Astronomer Royal for Scotland.

**Council (to 31st March 1951)**

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DUNCAN MACNAUGHTON, W.S., F.R.S.E.

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**Secretaries**

J. GIBSON KERR, W.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.

N. G. MATTHEW, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E., 126 West Savile Terrace, Edin., 9.

**Treasurer**

J. GIBSON KERR, W.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E., 51 Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2.

**Councillors**

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F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.

**Observatory**

*Director*—N. G. MATTHEW, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.

*Assistant*—B. O'NEILL, Esq.

**Transit and Time Section:** *Director*—J. H. WATT, Esq.

**Planetary Section:** *Director*—B. O'NEILL, Esq.

**Lunar Section:** *Director*—The Director of  
Observatory.

**Photographic Section:** *Director*—J. R. LIDDELL, Esq.

**Instrument Section:** *Director*—J. BLAIK, Esq.

# ANNUAL REPORT

The Council have pleasure in presenting a brief Report and Accounts for the year to 31st December 1950.

## **Membership**

Membership has been well maintained and at the close of the year stood at 130.

## **Finance**

A Statement of Accounts for the year is appended.

## **Observatory**

The Observatory has been open throughout the year. Astronomy Classes have been held for adults, for Scouts, Guides, Sea Rangers, and Pathfinders. Two of the adult Classes have been arranged in conjunction with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Edinburgh. Over 3900 visitors have been received during the year. Visitors included over 100 members of the Science Masters' Association while in Edinburgh for their Annual Conference, numerous groups from Schools (some from considerable distances), British Council students, and some 160 individual visitors from all parts of the world who were in Edinburgh for the International Festival of Music and Drama.

Visitors have been shown celestial objects through the telescopes whenever possible, and the instruments have been demonstrated and explained. When observation has not been practicable a lantern lecture has usually been given and in some cases films have been shown.

During the year some alterations have been effected and a considerable amount of maintenance work has been carried out. Among alterations, running water has been installed in the Main Building, and an electric power circuit has been laid to the Workshop building. Maintenance, in addition to constant minor repairs, has included the repainting of the Transit Wing, and the M'Ewan, Crawford, and Tweedie Domes. The Crawford Telescope and Camera have been re-enamelled. Reconstruction of the City Dome began in October, and it is hoped to bring this building into use again soon. The City is carrying out the main reconstruction, but refurnishing and other costs will have to be met. A lathe, vertical drilling machine, and other tools have been kindly presented for use in the Observatory Workshop. Installation is proceeding.

The Observing Sections have still a rather small membership but active work continues. Very poor observing weather in the latter part of the year restricted the number of observations. The Instrument Section has, however, been particularly active. The Observatory suffered a great loss by the untimely death of Mr C. S. Watt, who was ever active and helpful. He recorded the readings of the Deep Rock Thermometers until his death in October. Mr T. I. R. Neil has since taken over this work. A number of small telescopes have been loaned to members during the year.

## **Lectures**

During the winter an interesting and varied programme of lectures was carried through. The subjects ranged from Babylonian

Astronomy to Matter in Interstellar Space and from Observational Cosmology to the Story of Palomar. On six occasions during the summer, papers were given by members at the Observatory.

### **Library**

Numerous additions have been made to the Library, and astronomical periodicals have been available. The practice of opening the Library on certain evenings, in addition to access during the day, has been continued, but little advantage has been taken of this facility.

### **Publication**

During the year it was decided to cease printing the astronomy article and maps because of rising costs and to issue duplicated star maps and astronomy notes. Copies have been posted to members and have been distributed to students and visitors at the Observatory.

### **Dinner**

To mark the semi-jubilee of the Society's foundation a Dinner was held in the Roxburghe Hotel in January. This was a most successful function.

### **Visit**

By arrangement with Dr Freundlich and Mr Grant Bruce a very interesting afternoon was spent at the Mills Observatory, Dundee, by a party of members on 24th June. Interest centred on the new 19-inch Schmidt Camera.

### **Display**

The astronomical and meteorological display in the Case near the Register House has been continued at the request of the Ministry of Works. The work in connection with this is done voluntarily, mainly by Mr A. R. M'Kenzie.

### **Acknowledgments**

The Council wish to thank all who have helped in the Society's work during the year, particularly the members of the Observatory Sections who have done much voluntary work. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the donation by Lord Cooper of a set of Becvar's new Star Charts, of the gift by the relatives of the late Mr C. S. Watt of astronomical books from his collection, and of the loan of astronomical apparatus by the Astronomer Royal for Scotland.

### **Obituary**

The Council record with regret the loss by death of Mr A. G. Stenhouse, F.G.S., F.R.S.E., sometime Director of the Instrument Section; Mr C. S. Watt, M.P.S., Assistant Librarian; Dr R. W. Graham-Yooll, and Mr G. W. Bradshaw, M.I.M.E.

In name of the Council,

DUNCAN MACNAUGHTON, *President.*

J. GIBSON KERR, }  
N. G. MATTHEW, } *Secretaries.*

# The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For Year to 31st December 1950

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Subscriptions and Entrance Fees . £79 16 0	Rooms . . . . . £50 0 0
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh	Library . . . . . 19 6 2
Trustees—	Lantern Slides . . . . . 0 0 0
Income Payments . . . . . 150 0 0	Lectures . . . . . 24 4 1½
Income Tax recovered . . . . . 147 18 2	Publication . . . . . 28 9 6½
Edin. Corporation, for Observatory 200 0 0	Observatory, Calton Hill—
Donation . . . . . 0 10 6	Rates, Cleaning,
Interest on Deposit Receipt . . . 0 9 6	Repairs, Lighting,
	Equipment, etc. . £111 3 7
	Director . . . . . 100 0 0
	Assistant . . . . . 40 0 0
	Treasurer . . . . . 21 0 0
	Auditor . . . . . 5 5 0
	————— 277 8 7
	Honoraria to Joint Secretaries . . 63 0 0
	Treasurer's Remuneration . . . . 12 12 0
£578 14 2	Cost of Duplicator and Supplies . . 53 3 1
Balance of Special Donation brought forward from 1949 . . £5 9 0	Printing, Stationery and Postages . 48 1 5
Library Binding Reserve	Audit Fee . . . . . 5 5 0
Fund . . . . . 25 0 0	Semi-Jubilee Dinner Deficit . . . . 1 9 3
Balance from 1949 . . . . . 86 17 9½	Miscellaneous . . . . . 9 18 3½
	£592 17 5½
117 6 9½	Balance at 31st December 1950—
	In Bank . . . . . £92 19 7
	In hands of Treasurer 10 3 11
	————— 103 3 6
£696 0 11½	£696 0 11½

EDINBURGH, 11th January 1951.—I have examined the foregoing Abstract of the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December 1950, and I am of the opinion that it is correctly stated and sufficiently vouched. I have seen the Banker's Certificates for the Balances in Bank at 31st December 1950.

TURNER M'LACHLAN, C.A., Auditor.