

---

The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

---

REPORT BY THE COUNCIL  
AND  
ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December 1951

---

**Hon. Presidents**

Professor W. M. H. GREAVES, F.R.S., Astronomer Royal for Scotland.  
Sir EDMUND WHITTAKER, F.R.S.

**Council (to 31st March 1952)**

**President**

J. D. GARDNER, B.Sc., F.R.S.E., A.M.I.C.E.

**Vice-Presidents**

Sheriff C. MILNE, K.C.

Rev. H. MACPHERSON, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.

**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**

E. M. ANDERSON, M.A., D.Sc., F.G.S.

R. W. PLENDERLEITH, B.Sc.

M. A. ELLISON, B.A., M.Sc., Sc.D.

J. L. WADDIE, Esq.

J. C. JOHNSTON, F.R.A.S.

R. W. WRIGLEY, M.A., 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 1951.

## Membership

Some changes in membership have taken place but total membership remains about 130.

## Finance

A Statement of Accounts for the year is appended.

## Observatory

The Observatory has been open throughout the year. Astronomy Classes have been conducted for adults, for Scouts, Guides; and Sea Rangers. Three of the adult Classes have been held in conjunction with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Edinburgh. All Classes have included practical work.

Some 3300 visitors have been received during the year. These included British Association members in Edinburgh for the 1951 Meeting, members of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, numerous groups from Schools and individual visitors from various parts of the world. 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 on some occasions astronomical films have been shown.

Moderate use of the facilities at the Observatory has been made by members of the Society, but it is regretted that only about a quarter of our members take part in this active work. Members of the Observing Sections have taken advantage of the better observing weather in 1951 and more observations have been recorded. Where applicable, results have been co-ordinated with those of the appropriate Sections of the British Astronomical Association.

Special "children's evenings," for the children of members, have been arranged and despite weather difficulties have been well attended.

A considerable amount of maintenance work, including much repainting in the Main Building, and some alteration has been carried out. The Instrument Section has been busy effecting various improvements. The reconstruction of the City Dome is still incomplete owing to various delays outwith the Society's control but the work is now nearing completion. Additional seating has been ordered in view of the refurnishing that will be necessary.

The Deep Rock Thermometers were seriously damaged on 31st January by some unknown person who had broken in. The considerable expense of replacing the instruments has not been considered justified. The records have been kept, with one interruption (due to damage) since 1836.

## Lectures

In the winter months an interesting and varied programme of lectures was carried through. Subjects ranged from "The Upper

Atmosphere of the Earth " to " The Evolution of the Stars " and from " Solar Prominences " to " The Amateur in Astronomy." During the summer, papers were given at the Observatory by members of the Society on six occasions. A wide variety of subjects was discussed.

### **Library**

Astronomical periodicals have been available as usual and new books have been added from time to time. In addition to normal access during the day the Library has been opened on certain evenings for the convenience of members but few have taken advantage of this. In the latter part of the year Mr E. T. Hanson assisted in the Library.

### **Lantern Slides**

Very few members have made use of the Society's large collection of lantern slides.

### **Publication**

The duplicated monthly star maps and notes have been continued. Copies have been posted to members and have been distributed to students and visitors at the Observatory.

### **Visit**

By courtesy of Professor W. M. Smart and Dr T. R. Tannahill a group of members spent a very interesting afternoon at the University Observatory, Glasgow, on 12th May.

### **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 by members, mainly Mr A. R. M'Kenzie.

### **Acknowledgments**

The Council wish to thank all who have helped in the Society's work during the year, particularly those who have done so much voluntary work at the Observatory. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the donation of apparatus for the Observatory by Mrs Francis Sutherland, Mrs William Younger, and Mr T. Orr Munn, and the loan of astronomical apparatus by the Astronomer Royal for Scotland and the British Astronomical Association.

### **Obituary**

The Council record with regret the loss by death of Mr David Kerr, a past Councillor of the Society, and Mr J. H. Melville.

In name of the Council,

J. D. GARDNER, *President.*

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

# The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For Year to 31st December 1951

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Subscriptions and Entrance Fees . . . . . £78 4 6	Rooms . . . . . £50 0 0
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh	Library . . . . . 26 17 4
Trustees—	Lantern Slides . . . . . 0 0 0
Income Payments . . . . . 200 11 5	Lectures . . . . . 52 2 0
Income Tax recovered . . . . . 152 2 7	Publication . . . . . 10 18 9
Edin. Corporation, for Observatory 200 0 0	Observatory, Calton Hill—
Donation . . . . . 0 10 0	Contribution by
£631 8 6	Society towards
	cost of repairs to
	City Dome . . . . . £50 0 0
	Rates, Cleaning,
	Repairs, Lighting,
	Equipment, etc. . . . . 104 15 3
	Director . . . . . 100 0 0
	Assistant . . . . . 40 0 0
	Treasurer . . . . . 21 0 0
	Auditor . . . . . 5 5 0
	321 0 3
	Honoraria to Joint Secretaries . . . . . 63 0 0
	Treasurer's Remuneration . . . . . 12 12 0
	Printing, Stationery and Postages . . . . . 61 2 4
	<b>Audit Fee . . . . . 5 5 0</b>
	Contribution to British
	Association Conversazione . . . . . 5 0 0
	Miscellaneous . . . . . 10 17 9
	£618 15 5
	Balance at 31st December 1951—
	In Bank . . . . . £101 16 6
	In hands of Treasurer 14 0 1
Balance from 1950 . . . . . 103 3 6	115 16 7
£734 12 0	£734 12 0

EDINBURGH, 18th January 1952.—I have examined the foregoing Abstract of the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December 1951, and I am of the opinion that it is correctly stated and sufficiently vouched. I have seen the Banker's Certificate for the Balance in Bank at 31st December 1951.

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