
REPORT BY THE COUNCIL
AND
ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December 1959

Council (to 31st March 1960)

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R. W. PLENDERLEITH, B.SC., F.R.S.E.

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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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Surg. Com. J. G. MORE-NISBETT.

J. R. LIDDELL, Esq.

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Observatory

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

Assistant—B. O'NEILL, Esq.

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

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

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

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

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

ANNUAL REPORT

The Council have pleasure in presenting a brief Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1959.

Membership

The total membership has remained fairly constant.

Finance

A Statement of Accounts for the year is appended.

Observatory

The Observatory on Calton Hill has been open throughout the year. Despite some difficulties during January and February, due to reconstruction work in the Main Building, the normal activities of the Observatory have continued. The number of visitors received during the year was over 4,000. About a quarter of these were senior schoolchildren, some coming from more than fifty miles distant. During the summer we have welcomed many visitors from other countries. As in previous years visitors were shown astronomical objects through the telescopes whenever conditions permitted and when observation was not possible the main instruments were demonstrated and an illustrated lecture was given. The normal duration of the visits was one-and-a-half to two hours.

Astronomy classes, at different levels, have been conducted and all have included practical work. Classes for adults have been held in conjunction with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Corporation. Young people with a special interest in astronomy may join the Fellowship of Junior Astronomers which meets at the Observatory. There is tuition in general astronomy and in practical observation: members keep observation books, give short papers at meetings and take part in discussions. Some have been advised about their work for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Information sheets and details of astronomical projects have been supplied to schools interested and help and material given to teachers.

Telescopes were in use on 114 nights, mainly during the winter. The Observing Sections have continued normally with the exception of the Transit and Time Section which had to suspend operations for most of the year owing to reconstruction work in the Transit Wing. The Planetary Section made observations of Venus, Jupiter and Saturn. Lunar observations concerned specific features of the surface and included Alphonsus, a region of great interest. The Photographic Section has continued experimental work in lunar and stellar photography. Some small telescopes have been loaned to members to encourage observational work.

The maintenance and repair of instruments and Dome revolving gear has been carried out as required. A considerable amount of time has had to be spent in re-erecting clocks, Transit Telescope and much other apparatus which had to be dismantled last year because of reconstruction of part of the Main Building. While all important equipment has been brought back into use, reinstatement is not yet complete owing to lack of time.

The reconstruction of a large part of the Main Building, begun last year, was completed in February. Interior painting has been delayed to allow the new plasterwork to dry out thoroughly. The re-covering of the Crawford Dome has been put in hand by the City and work is expected to begin on the building soon.

Lectures

At the formal meetings of the Society during the winter the following lectures were delivered:—

“The Aurora” (B. McINNES, B.Sc.).

“The Origin of the Constellations” (M. W. OVENDEN, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D.).

“The Astrolabe” (R. W. PLENDERLEITH, B.Sc., F.R.S.E.).

“Radio Astronomy and the Aurora” (C. D. WATKINS, B.Sc., Ph.D.).

“Astronomical Milestones” (M. J. SMYTH, M.A., Ph.D.).

Papers on astronomical subjects were also given at informal monthly meetings from April to September. Meetings were well attended.

Publication

The distribution of the monthly *Astronomical Notes* and *Star Maps* has been continued. Copies were also issued to visitors to the Observatory.

Library

Good use has been made of the books and periodicals in the Library, which has been extended by the addition of new books from time to time.

Lantern Slides

The Society's collection of astronomical slides has been available for borrowing, as usual.

Display

The public display of astronomical and meteorological information at the Register House has been continued.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank all who have assisted in the work of the Society during the year. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the gift of apparatus and books by Dr A. C. Stephen and of the loan of apparatus by the Astronomer Royal for Scotland and the Royal Scottish Museum.

Obituary

The Council record with regret the loss by death of E. T. Hanson and J. Finnie. Mr Finnie had freely given his professional advice and help in connection with the Observatory clocks for many years.

In name of the Council,

R. W. PLENDERLEITH, *President*.
J. GIBSON KERR, } *Secretaries*.
N. G. MATTHEW, }

The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For Year to 31st December 1959

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions and Entrance Fees	£58 16 0
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees—	
Income Payments	216 1 0
Income Tax recovered	160 7 3
Edin. Corporation, for Observatory	100 0 0
	£535 4 3

PAYMENTS

Library	£38 17 2
Lectures and Films	31 4 3
Lorimer Lecture	10 10 0
Transport	10 0 0
Observatory, Calton Hill—	
Rates, Cleaning, Repairs, Heating, Lighting, etc.	£204 4 11
Replacement of Equipment	77 10 9
Insurance Policy Premiums	21 11 4
Director	100 0 0
Assistant	40 0 0
Treasurer	21 0 0
Auditor	5 5 0
	469 12 0
Honoraria to Joint Secretaries	63 0 0
Treasurer's Remuneration	12 12 0
Printing, Stationery and Postages	94 3 1
Audit Fee	5 5 0
Miscellaneous	13 13 9
Burglary Claim Payments	85 10 0
	£834 7 3

Balance from 1958	440 8 11
	£975 13 2

Balance at 31st December 1959—	
In Bank	£129 19 6
In hands of Treasurer	11 6 5
	141 5 11
	£975 13 2

EDINBURGH, 11th January 1960.—I have examined the foregoing Abstract of the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December 1959, and I am of the opinion that it is correctly stated and sufficiently vouched. I have seen the Banker's Certificate for the Balance at Bank at 31st December 1959.

R. N. OSWALD, C.A., Auditor.