

---

The  
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

---

REPORT BY THE COUNCIL  
AND  
ACCOUNTS

*For the Year ended 31st December, 1960*

---

**Council (to 31st March, 1961)**

**President**

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

**Vice-Presidents**

J. A. FORSYTH, M.A., LL.B., B.SC., Q.C.

T. I. R. NEIL, Esq.

**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, Edinburgh, 9

**Treasurer**

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

**Councillors**

S. G. BREWER, M.A.

J. R. LIDDELL, F.R.A.S.

J. A. HUNTER, B.SC., PH.D

A. R. MCKENZIE, B.SC., F.R.A.S.

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

Surg. Com. J. G. MORE-NISBETT

---

**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*—Director of Observatory

**Photographic Section:** *Director*—J. R. LIDDELL, F.R.A.S.

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

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

**Librarian:** R. C. M. THOMSON, Esq.

**Curator of Slides:** D. R. LAIDLAW, Esq.

# ANNUAL REPORT

---

The Council have pleasure in presenting a brief Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

## **Membership**

The total membership is about 100.

## **Finance**

A Statement of Accounts for the year is appended. It is satisfactory that, after representations, Edinburgh Corporation increased the annual grant to the Society to a figure more consistent with present conditions.

## **Observatory**

The activities of the Observatory have continued normally throughout the year. The number of visitors received was almost 4000. This included groups of senior schoolchildren from a wide area of south Scotland. Most visitors came during the winter period when evening observation of celestial objects is easier, but in the summer months visitors from many distant places were welcomed. Evening observing sessions during the period of the International Festival of Music and Drama were very popular. When the weather made observation impossible visitors were shown the main instruments, were given an illustrated lecture and their questions were answered. Information and assistance has been given to schools in various parts of Scotland where astronomy is being introduced to the pupils.

Astronomy classes, at several levels, have again been conducted, some in conjunction with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Corporation. During January senior schoolchildren were invited to attend astronomical film shows and these proved popular. During the Christmas school holidays the Fellowship of Junior Astronomers at the Observatory held a special meeting for friends interested. Talks were given, films shown and Mars and the Moon observed.

Telescopes were in use on 101 nights, much less than usual owing to persistent cloudy weather in January and October. Members of the Observing Sections co-operated in making observations in their several fields. The Transit and Time Section were active; the Planetary Section observed Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Unfortunately the transit of Mercury on November 7 was clouded out. Lunar observations were mainly concentrated on Alphonsus and the Straight Wall. Members of the Photographic Section have been adapting their 35 mm cameras for use with the telescopes. A small group has been formed to observe variable stars, on the initiative of Mr. J. Shepherd. Some telescopes have been loaned to members to encourage observation.

The maintenance and repair of instruments has been carried out by the Instrument Section. Some improvements to outside lighting have been made.

Considerable improvements to the buildings have been carried out during the year. The re-covering of the dome of the Crawford building was carried out by the City during April and May. In July the recon-

structed part of the Main Building was painted. This involved dismantling and later re-erection of display material which took much time. In September what was thought to be a small repair to the roof of the Main Building was begun, but this developed into a major job which was completed just before the winter programme began in October. A minor repair was also carried out on the Cox building. As a result of these operations the fabric of the Observatory is in better condition and the appearance of the interior of the Main Building has been greatly improved.

### Lectures

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

“Magnetism in the Universe”—P. A. SWEET, M.A., PH.D.

“Cepheid Variable Stars”—D. W. N. STIBBS, M.SC., D.PHIL.

“The Nature of the Radio Sources”—D. W. DEWHIRST, M.A., PH.D.

“Kepler—Mystic and Mathematician”—D. LIVINGSTON, B.SC.,  
F.R.A.S.

“The Moonwatch System at Glasgow”—A. E. ROY, B.SC., PH.D.

On March 4th, after the business meeting, films were shown. Papers on astronomical topics were also given at informal meetings from April to September. There were good audiences at all meetings.

### Publication

The distribution of monthly *Astronomical Notes* and *Star Maps* has been continued. Visitors to the Observatory also received copies.

### Library

The books and periodicals in the Library have been utilised by a fair number of members. Among the new acquisitions is a *Photographic Lunar Atlas*, a co-operative effort published by the University of Chicago.

### Lantern Slides

The Society's collection has been re-arranged by Mr. Laidlaw, the curator. The slides are available on loan.

### Display

The public display of current 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 loan of apparatus by the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, of apparatus and a case of meteorites, specially arranged for display at the Observatory, by the Royal Scottish Museum, and of the gift of books by Mr. R. W. Wrigley and Mr. D. M. Henderson.

In name of the Council,

R. W. PLENDERLEITH, *President*

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

# The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For Year to 31st December, 1960

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Subscriptions - - - - £97 17 0	Library - - - - - £37 8 3
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees—	Lectures - - - - - 39 17 4
Income Payments- - - - 248 9 1	Transport - - - - - 10 0 0
Income Tax Recovered - - - 153 1 6	Observatory, Calton Hill—
Edinburgh Corporation, for	Rates, Cleaning,
Observatory - - - - - 400 0 0	Repairs, Heating,
899 7 7	Lighting, etc. -£251 7 5
	Replacement of
	Equipment - - 12 13 4
	Insurance Pre-
	miums - - - 14 10 8
	Director - - - 150 0 0
	Assistant - - - 40 0 0
	Treasurer - - - 22 1 0
	Auditor - - - 5 5 0
	495 17 5
	Honoraria to Joint Secretaries - 63 0 0
	Treasurer's Remuneration - 13 13 0
	Printing, Stationery & Postages 102 0 2
	Audit Fee - - - - 5 5 0
	Miscellaneous - - - - 14 5 8
	781 6 10
	Balance at 31st December, 1960—
	In Bank - - -£254 4 1
	In Hands of Treas-
	urer - - - - 5 2 7
Balance from 1959 - - - - 141 5 11	259 6 8
£1,040 13 6	£1,040 13 6

EDINBURGH, 4th January, 1961—I have examined the foregoing Abstract of the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December, 1960, 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, 1960.

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