
The
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

REPORT BY THE COUNCIL
AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December, 1967

Council (to 31st March, 1968)

President

J. A. HUNTER, B.SC., PH.D., A.R.I.C.

Vice-Presidents

R. O. CURLE, C.A.,

C. G. R. WOOD, F.R.A.S.

Secretary

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

Treasurer

J. GIBSON KERR, C.B.E., W.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E., 51 Castle Street, Edin., 2

Councillors

O. C. DOLEY, Esq.

W. MERSON, Esq.

R. G. FENOULHET, Esq.

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

Mrs C. M. H. LAMBERT,

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

Observatory

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

Assistant: C. G. R. WOOD, F.R.A.S.

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

Photoelectric Photometry Section: *Director*—A. J. ROSTRON, B.SC., PH.D.

Planetary Section: *Director*—R. J. ALLAN, M.A., B.SC.

Radioastronomy Section: *Director*—I. W. SHEFFIELD, Esq.

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

Variable Star Section: *Director*—J. SHEPHERD, F.R.A.S.

Instrument Section: *Director*—C. G. R. WOOD, F.R.A.S.

Librarian: W. MERSON, Esq.

Curator of Slides: A. J. SPROTT, M.A.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Council have pleasure in presenting a brief Report and the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1967.

Membership. There have been some changes in membership but the total remains about ninety.

Finance. A Statement of Accounts for the year is appended.

Observatory. The Observatory has been the active centre of the Society in its work for the public and for the members, as usual. By far the greatest time is given to the general public, from youth organisations, senior schoolchildren from a wide area, various clubs, to members of astronomy classes at the Observatory which are held in conjunction with the Department of Adult Education of the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Corporation. Visitors are taken round parts of the Observatory to see instruments and displays. Whenever possible they are shown the planets, star clusters and other interesting objects with the telescope, otherwise a short illustrated lecture is given. Over 3,500 visitors spent an hour or two at the Observatory during the year, slightly fewer than last year. Members of the Society are given facilities for observation on Friday evenings and the younger group, the Fellowship of Junior Astronomers, meet at the Observatory regularly for observing and discussion.

Telescopes were in use on 84 nights, this being a poor year for evening observing. The Lunar Section has had to revise its programme following the success of the American lunar Orbiter spacecraft and members have been endeavouring to check on colour events on the Moon. The Photoelectric Section are still engaged in perfecting their apparatus and adapting the 13 inch Reflector. Observations of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn have been made by members of the Planetary Section but more observers would be welcomed. The Radioastronomy group has been growing and is in the process of moving to the Tweedie Dome. Mr J. H. Watt and Mr T. Flucker of the Transit Section have made observations when possible. The active Variable Star group has again made many magnitude determinations.

A structural repair to the McEwan Dome rotation became necessary but as the City Architect could not get any Firm to submit an estimate for the work, brackets were made to our design and these were fitted by Mr C. G. R. Wood and Mr D. R. Laidlaw. Further repairs will be required. Mr Wood has worked on designs for the new 12 inch f/5 Newtonian telescope. The optical parts of the new telescope have been completed and the main bearings for the mounting have been purchased. Uncertainty about when the new building will be erected caused other work to be delayed. The Barograph and Barometer in the Register House Case have been acquired on the retiral from business of G. Hutchison & Sons. Some painting has been carried out in the Main Building and in the Tweedie Dome. Work began on the new Toilet Building on 7th December in severe weather but reasonable progress has been made.

Assistance has been given and temporary loans of parts have been made to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, in connection with their exhibition of the Troughton Mural Circle at the old Greenwich Observatory.

Lectures. At the formal meetings of the Society the following lectures were given :

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 'Space Research and Astronomy' | H. E. Butler, M.A., PH.D. |
| 'The Structure of the Galaxy' | M. J. Smyth, M.A., PH.D. |
| 'Comets: Discovery and Prediction' | D. C. Heggie, Esq. |
| 'Quarks' | J. A. Hunter, B.SC., PH.D., A.R.I.C. |
| 'Meteorites, with particular reference to British falls' | A. A. Mills, B.SC., PH.D. |
| 'Earth Measurement from Satellite Observations' | B. McInnes, B.SC., F.B.I.S. |

Following the Annual General Meeting Mr Wood spoke on "The Observatory's 1850 Troughton altazimuth Telescope" and a new film "Window into Space" was shown. Informal monthly meetings were held during the summer when various astronomical topics were discussed. One talk "A Visit to Mt. Stromlo Observatory" had been recorded by Miss H. E. Reeve in Australia and was illustrated by slides sent by post.

Publication and Display. The distribution of the monthly Astronomy Notes has been continued and current information has been on display outside the Register House. Information and assistance has been given to numerous schools throughout Scotland.

Library. Greater use has been made of the Library this year.

Astronomical Slides. We are pleased to report that more members have been using the Society's collection of slides.

Acknowledgments. We record our thanks to all who have assisted the Society in its work during the year. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the loan of apparatus by the Astronomer Royal for Scotland.

Obituary. The Council record with regret the loss by death of Mr C. T. Melvin and Mr R. Williamson. The latter had been a member for seventeen years.

In name of the Council,

J. A. HUNTER, *President*

N. G. MATTHEW, *Secretary*

J. GIBSON KERR, *Treasurer*

The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For Year to 31st December, 1967

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Subscriptions and Donation - £98 14 0	Library - - - - £22 13 11
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees—	Lectures - - - - 56 4 9
Income Payments- - - 267 1 1	Transport - - - - 14 0 0
Edinburgh Corporation Grant for Observatory - - - 850 0 0	Observatory, Calton Hill—
Deposit Receipt Interest - - 11 14 5	Rates, Cleaning, Repairs, Heating, Lighting, etc. -£244 17 7
Telescope Damage Compensation 5 0 0	Capital
<u>£1,232 9 6</u>	Expenditure - 135 16 4
	Insurance
	Premiums - 16 8 9
	Director - - 200 0 0
	Assistants - - 50 0 0
	Treasurer - - 42 0 0
	Auditor (for 1966) 10 10 0
	<u>699 12 8</u>
	Honorarium to Secretary (for 1966) 100 0 0
	Treasurer's Remuneration - 26 5 0
	Printing, Stationery & Postages 94 12 10
	Audit Fee (for 1966)- - - 10 10 0
	Council Meetings - - - 4 6 10
	<u>£1,028 6 0</u>
	Balance at 31st December, 1967—
	In Bank - -£258 6 9
	On Deposit Receipt 300 0 0
	In Hands of Treasurer - - - <u>4 14 4</u> 563 1 1
Balance from 1966 - - - 358 17 7	
<u>£1,591 7 1</u>	<u>£1,591 7 1</u>

EDINBURGH, 8th January, 1968—I have examined the Accounts of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December, 1967, and am of the opinion that the foregoing Abstract is correctly stated and sufficiently vouched. I have seen the Bankers' Certificate for the Balance in the Bank at 31st December, 1967.

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