
The
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

REPORT BY THE COUNCIL
AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December, 1969

Council (to 31st March, 1970)

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Observatory

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

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

I. W. SHEFFIELD, F.R.A.S.

Photoelectric Photometry Section: *Director*—A. J. ROSTRON, B.Sc., Ph.D.

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

Radioastronomy Section: *Director*—I. W. SHEFFIELD, F.R.A.S.

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 Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1969.

Membership. Membership continues at about ninety.

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

Observatory. The Observatory continues to be the centre of the Society's activities, mainly for the general public. About 3,000 visitors spent one and a half to two hours at the Observatory, examining interesting objects of the night sky through the 6-inch refracting telescope when possible, or were shown round and given a talk on present-day astronomy. Visitors are encouraged to ask questions. As usual Classes in Astronomy were held in conjunction with the Department of Adult Education of the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Corporation. Evening visits for accompanied schoolchildren were again offered but it is regretted there has been a smaller response than usual. Members of the Society have facilities for observing with the McEwan telescope on Friday evenings and members of the Observing Sections are given additional facilities. The Fellowship of Junior Astronomers, open to young people between the ages of 12 and 18, meets regularly at the Observatory.

Telescopes were in use on 83 nights during the period when evening observation was possible. The small Photoelectric Photometry group has continued to assess and improve their equipment and expect to start a specific programme soon. The Planetary Section has made a series of observations of Jupiter and of Saturn, and observed Mars although it was at too low an altitude for serious study. The Radioastronomy Section has carried out investigation of radio sources and has done some satellite tracking and also some experimental work. The small Variable Star group has continued observation of a number of variables and has drawn up light curves.

Some improvements to the heating and lighting of the Main Building have been made, and also to the lighting of the Cox Building, by Dr Hunter. A new electricity cable has been laid to the Observatory by the Electricity Board as the old cable could not adequately carry the load, and this has effected a considerable improvement. Some painting has been carried out in the Main Building. Plans for the erection of the new Building, to house the new 12-inch Newtonian Telescope, are under consideration. It is regretted that Edinburgh Corporation has so far felt unable to give any financial aid towards the erection of this building.

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

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| ' Measuring the Polarization of Starlight ' | N. M. Pratt, B.Sc. |
| ' The Amateur Astronomer and his Work ' | R. J. Livesey, A.M.I.C.E.,
A.M.I.W.E., F.R.A.S. |
| ' Image Intensifiers in Astronomy ' | R. C. Maddison, B.A., PH.D.,
A.INST.P., F.R.A.S. |
| ' Pulsars ' | R. M. Green, B.Sc., PH.D. |
| ' Sir David Gill ' | R. H. Stoy, C.B.E., M.A., PH.D. |

The Lorimer Lecture given by Sir Bernard Lovell, F.R.S., on "The Nature of the Universe" was held in the Lecture Theatre of the Royal Scottish Museum, by courtesy of the Director, and was particularly successful. Sir Bernard was presented with the Lorimer Gold Medal by Sir Edmund Hirst, C.B.E., F.R.S., a member of the Society and an Honorary President. Informal Meetings were held during the summer months when members spoke on a variety of astronomical topics, and in September a visit was made to Earlyburn Satellite Tracking Station of the Royal Observatory by kind permission of Professor H. A. Brück, C.B.E., D.PHIL., PH.D., Astronomer Royal for Scotland.

Meeting of the British Astronomical Association in Scotland. A meeting of the British Astronomical Association was held at the Observatory, Calton Hill, on 27th September, the first in Scotland, at the suggestion of the Association. The principal Office-bearers of the Association were present and there was an attendance of about sixty. Papers were given by Scottish members and after discussion tea was served in the Main Building. Later at a joint meeting in the Mountbatten Building of the Heriot-Watt University, Mr Patrick Moore, O.B.E., gave a fascinating lecture "1969—Year of Space" to an audience of about 250. On the previous evening early arrivals for the B.A.A. Meeting were welcomed at the Observatory.

Publication and Display. The monthly astronomical notes and star maps continue to be available to members and to visitors at the Observatory. Assistance has been given to schools, and current astronomical information has been on display outside the Register House.

Library. Fairly good use has been made of the Library this year.

Astronomical Slides. We are pleased that some members have been using slides to illustrate talks on astronomy.

Acknowledgments. We thank all who have assisted the Society in its work during the year. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the help of Mr J. D. Weir concerning architectural plans of the proposed new Building, and of the loan of apparatus by the Astronomer Royal for Scotland.

In name of the Council,

R. G. FENOULHET, *President*
N. G. MATTHEW, *Secretary*
J. GIBSON KERR, *Treasurer*

The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For Year to 31st December, 1969

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Subscriptions and Donations	£90 0 0	Library - - - - -	£58 5 9
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees—		Lectures - - - - -	65 2 3
Income Payments- - -	165 19 7	Transport - - - - -	17 0 0
Edinburgh Corporation Grant for Observatory - - -	700 0 0	Observatory, Calton Hill—	
Deposit Receipt Interest - -	28 13 8	Rates, Cleaning, Repairs, Heating, Lighting, etc.	-£308 18 8
Star Maps - - - - -	5 0 0	Capital Expenditure -	83 15 2
Sale of Badges - - - - -	1 10 0	Insurance Premiums -	22 9 0
	£991 3 3	Director - - - - -	250 0 0
		Assistants - - - - -	50 0 0
		Treasurer - - - - -	50 0 0
		Auditor (for 1968)	12 12 0
			777 14 10
		Honorarium to Secretary (for 1968)	125 0 0
		Treasurer's Remuneration -	30 0 0
		Printing, Stationery & Postages	142 9 4
		Audit Fee (for 1968)- - -	12 12 0
		Council Meetings - - - -	3 19 4
		Summer Meetings - - - -	5 5 0
		Lorimer Lecture - - - -	85 19 8
			£1,323 8 2
		Balance at 31st December, 1969—	
		In Bank - - - - -	£52 19 8
		On Deposit Receipt	200 0 0
		In Hands of Treasurer - - - -	16 4 10
			269 4 6
Balance from 1968 - - - -	601 9 5		
	£1,592 12 8		£1,592 12 8

EDINBURGH, 5th January, 1970—I have examined the Accounts of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December, 1969, 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, 1969.

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