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The  
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

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REPORT BY THE COUNCIL  
AND ACCOUNTS

*For the Year ended 31st December, 1971*

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**Council (to 31st March, 1972)**

**President**

R. M. GALL INGLIS, Esq.

**Vice-Presidents**

E. G. CRISP, Esq.

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

**Secretary**

N. G. MATTHEW, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E., 126 West Savile Terrace, Edinburgh,  
EH9 3EJ

**Treasurer**

J. GIBSON KERR, C.B.E., W.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E., 51 Castle Street, Edinburgh,  
EH2 3LL

**Councillors**

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D. R. LAIDLAW, Esq.

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

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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.

R. VEITCH, F.R.A.S.

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

**Lunar and Planetary Section:** *Director*—R. VEITCH, F.R.A.S.

**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:** R. VEITCH, F.R.A.S.

## ANNUAL REPORT

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The Council have pleasure in presenting a brief Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1971.

**Membership.** The membership has remained at 88, losses being made good by new members joining.

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

**Observatory.** This is the centre of the Society's activities, and fully three-quarters of the time has been given to the general public. Visitors are encouraged to come from October to April, when evening viewing of the night sky is possible, but during the summer many visitors from a distance come to the Observatory, and during the Edinburgh Festival there are special evening openings which are appreciated by the visitors. The number of visitors during the year was a little over 3,000 and usually about an hour and a half was spent in the Observatory.

Once again a well-attended Class in Astronomy for Adults, with observing, was held in conjunction with the University Department of Educational Studies and Edinburgh Corporation. Evening visits for accompanied schoolchildren are offered during the winter months, with observing when clear, and a fair number of schools have responded. Members of the Society have facilities for observing on Friday evenings, and those in the Observing Sections are given additional facilities. The Fellowship of Junior Astronomers, for ages 12 to 18, sponsored by the Society, meets regularly at the Observatory.

Telescopes were in use on 76 nights, sometimes for long periods, when evening and night observation was possible, and some observations of the Sun were made during the summer. The Photoelectric Photometry group have been active in recording the brightnesses of variable stars and Mr R. Fenoulhet has also given time to improving their equipment. Mr B. Morell, of the Variable Star section, has been particularly active in observing the brighter variables through binoculars and is now well known throughout Britain, and Mr J. Shepherd has kept a watch on the fainter stars in their programme. The small Lunar and Planetary group has been mainly concerned with Mars and Saturn, but the Moon is still a fine object and good training for observers. A number of occultations of stars by the Moon were observed and timed by Mr C. Wood and Mr R. Veitch. The Radio-Astronomy group has been rather less active, mainly because Mr I. Sheffield has had less time available. Mr C. Wood has carried out work on some of the instruments and on the McEwan dome. Edinburgh Corporation carried out repairs to the roof of the Main Building made necessary by gale damage, and a small room off the Lecture Hall, which was very damp, was re-roofed, and later the outside woodwork of the Main Building was painted. The heating of the Lecture Hall has been further improved by Dr J. A. Hunter. The plans for erection of the proposed new Telescope Building are still being discussed by the Council of the Society, as some difficulties have arisen.

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

“Some Eclipse Studies of the Solar Corona ”	G. Henderson, B.SC., PH.D.
“The Evolution of Planetary Orbits: a probe into the Solar System’s Past ”	A. E. Roy, B.SC., PH.D.
“Recent Developments in Cosmology ”	R. M. Green, B.SC., PH.D.
“Astronomy in the Bible ”	R. M. Gall Inglis, Esq.
“Arthur P. Norton ”	R. M. Gall Inglis, Esq.
(in place of lecture by Prof. S. K. Runcorn, held up in Europe)	

During the summer, informal lectures were given as follows:

“Observing Saturn ”	R. G. Veitch, F.R.A.S.
“Logic ”	J. A. Hunter, B.SC., PH.D., A.R.I.C.
“Astronomical Data Measurement ”	I. W. Sheffield, F.R.A.S.
“Observing Variable Stars by Binocular ”	B. R. Morell, Esq.
“The Diameters of Stars ”	N. G. Matthew, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.

In July a Visit was made to the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, to see recent developments there. The group was taken round by Mr Fenoulhet and Mr Sheffield.

**Current Information.** The display of current astronomical information in the Case outside Register House has been continued.

**Library.** We are glad to note that greater use has been made of the Library this year.

**Astronomical Slides.** The slide collection has been used more, mainly by members giving lectures to other Societies.

**Acknowledgments.** The Council wish to thank all who have assisted the Society during the past year.

**Obituary.** We record with regret that three well-known members of long standing have died during the year. Mr Tom Flucker, active in the Transit Section, died early in July; Mr Barney O’Neill, perhaps our best-known member and for many years Assistant at the Observatory, died three weeks later; and near the end of the year we lost Mr George Hutchison, a skilled instrument maker, who had often assisted us. We pay tribute to these loyal members. Mr O’Neill left a legacy to the Society, and his Grandfather Clock, which is now in our Library.

In name of the Council,

R. M. GALL INGLIS, *President*  
N. G. MATTHEW, *Secretary*  
J. GIBSON KERR, *Treasurer*

# The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For Year to 31st December, 1971

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Subscriptions - - -	£74.00	Library - - - - -	£37.78
Donations - - - -	16.30	Lectures - - - - -	30.78
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees—		Transport - - - - -	16.00
Income Payments - -	411.19	Observatory, Calton Hill—	
Edinburgh Corporation Grant for Observatory - - -	800.00	Rates, Cleaning, Repairs, Heating, Lighting, etc. -	£424.73
Sale of Badges - - - -	1.25	Capital Expenditure -	38.82
Legacy from the late Mr B. O'Neill	1,000.00	Insurance Premiums -	30.73
	£2,302.74	Director - - -	250.00
		Assistants - - -	65.00
		Treasurer - - -	60.00
		Auditor (for 1970)	15.00
			884.28
		Heating Equip.	48.80
		New Dome	26.40
			959.48
		Honorarium to Secretary - -	150.00
		Treasurer's Remuneration -	40.00
		Printing, Stationery & Postages	77.91
		Audit Fee (for 1970) - - -	15.00
		Summer Meetings - - - -	6.30
		Council Meetings - - - -	3.15
		Miscellaneous - - - - -	0.70
		Legacy Invested - - - - -	1,000.00
			£2,337.10
		Balance at 31st December, 1971—	
Balance from 1970 - - - -	124.74	In Bank - - -	£76.13
		In Hands of Treasurer - - - -	14.25
	£2,427.48		90.38
			£2,427.48

EDINBURGH, 6th January, 1972—I have examined the Accounts of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December, 1971, 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, 1971.

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