
The
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

REPORT BY THE COUNCIL
AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December, 1972

Council (to 31st March, 1973)

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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.

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

Photoelectric Photometry Section: *Director*—R. G. FENHOULET Esq.

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.

Librarian: W. MERSON, Esq. and A. MACKAY, Esq.

Curator of Slides: R. VEITCH, F.R.A.S.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Council have pleasure in presenting a brief Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1972.

Membership. The membership is increasing gradually and stands at 93.

Finance. A statement of Accounts for the year is appended,

Observatory. The activities of the Society are centred on the Observatory, Calton Hill, and about eighty per cent of the time is given to the general public, mainly from September to April when evening observing with the telescopes is possible, while during the summer we have visitors to Edinburgh and in the three weeks of the International Festival we hold open nights for those who wish to come, with observing when clear. During the year we welcomed some 2700 visitors, most of them spending 1½ to 2 hours at the Observatory and being shown objects of the night sky through one of the telescopes whenever possible.

The winter Astronomy Class for adults, held in conjunction with the University Department of Educational Studies and Edinburgh Corporation, was again well attended, with an enrolment of over fifty. As usual evening visits for accompanied school children were offered during the winter months and a number of schools responded. For the first time some afternoon visits were offered and a few took place. This experiment is to be repeated. The Fellowship of Junior Astronomers, for those aged 12 to 18, is sponsored by the Society and meets twice a month at the Observatory, except for the months of July and August.

Telescopes were used on 86 nights, and on a number of occasions the 6 inch Cooke refractor was used during the day for projection of the Sun's image, to show sun-spots. The Lunar and Planetary Section, under Mr R. Veitch, has been active in observing Jupiter and Saturn, and in the accurate timing of Lunar occultations of stars as a check on the Moon's precise position, for the computing department of the Royal Greenwich Observatory. The small group measuring magnitudes by Photoelectric Photometry have been active but are now in the process of replacing some of their equipment to attain greater accuracy. The Radioastronomy Section has been less active since Mr I. Sheffield has had less time available, but a new member, Mr J. Dean has also been using the equipment. Mr J. Shepherd has continued his observations monitoring variable stars in our programme but Mr B. Morell has had less time for binocular observations of bright variables. A major repair to the McEwan Dome became necessary before the winter, rotation having become more and more difficult, and this was carried out by an experienced firm, supervised by the City Architect. The automatically timed electrical heating of the Lecture Hall has been successfully completed by Dr J. Hunter, and linoleum has been laid in the McEwan Dome, where some painting has been carried out.

Gift of Telescope. The gift of an 18 inch Dall-Kirkham Cassegrain telescope, with all accessories, in October, by Mr Billy Kay of Shetland who has been interested in the Observatory for a number of years, was

the outstanding event of the year. We had hoped to mount it temporarily in the Cox Dome but this proved impracticable so its erection will have to await the completion of the new Building. The Society has made Mr Kay our first Honorary Member.

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

"Meteors and Meteorites"	N. H. Langton, M.Sc., Ph.D
"Spiral Galaxies"	P. W. J. L. Brand, B.Sc., Ph.D.
"The Lunar Rock Samples: a review"	Prof. M. J. O'Hara, M.A., Ph.D
"Voyage to Atlantis: an astronomical detective story"	A. E. Roy, B.Sc., Ph.D.
"Radar Studies of Meteor Orbits"	J. C. Brown, B.Sc., F.R.A.S.
"The Sun and recent Sunspot Cycle"	Mrs Mary Bruck, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.

During the summer informal lectures were given as follows:

"The Planet Jupiter"	R. G. Veitch, F.R.A.S.
"Autoguiding of Telescope Drives"	I. W. Sheffield, F.R.A.S.
"Observatory Site Testing"	D. A. Pickup, B. Eng.
"The rocks and interior of the Earth and Moon"	R. Macdonald, Esq.
"Megalithic Astronomy"	A. Mackay, Esq.
"Cataclysmic Variable Stars"	N. G. Matthew, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.

Current Information. The display of current astronomical information, and also atmospheric pressure by recording barograph, has been continued in the Case outside Register House. Some staff of the Register House co-operate.

Library. Good use has been made of the library. During the year Mr W. Merson retired as Librarian after many years, and we thank him for his good work. Mr A. Mackay has been appointed in his place.

Astronomical Slides. Fairly good use has been made of the slides this year, particularly those of the modern two-inch size.

Acknowledgments. The Council wish to thank all who have assisted the Society during the past year, and in particular Mr Billy Kay for the gift of the 18 inch long-focus Reflecting Telescope.

In the 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, 1972

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Subscriptions - - -	£103.00	Library - - - - -	£44.68
Donations - - - -	25.05	Lectures - - - - -	42.00
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees—		Transport - - - - -	17.00
Income Payments - -	314.88	Observatory, Calton Hill—	
Edinburgh Corporation Grant for Observatory		Rates, Cleaning, Repairs, Heating, Lighting, etc. -	£381.80
Balance for 1971 - - -	400.00	Capital	
Paid to a/c for Year to May 1973	800.00	Expenditure -	52.84
O'Neill Bequest		Insurance	
Building Society Interest -	28.80	Premiums -	35.50
Treasury Stock Interest -	10.97	Director - - -	250.00
Investment Realised - -	1,000.00	Assistants - - -	75.00
Ritchie Slave Clock proceeds -	40.00	Treasurer - - -	60.00
	£2,722.70	Auditor (for 1971)	16.00
			871.14
		Honorarium to Secretary - -	150.00
		Treasurer's Remuneration -	40.00
		Printing, Stationery & Postages	70.03
		Audit Fee (for 1971) - - -	16.00
		Council Meetings - - - -	3.50
		Summer Lectures - - - -	6.30
		Investment in 7¼% Treasury Stock (O'Neill Bequest) - - -	962.56
			£2,223.21
		Balance at 31st December, 1972—	
Balance from 1971 - - -	90.38	In Bank - - -	£583.88
	£2,813.08	In Hands of Treasurer - - -	5.99
			589.87
			£2,813.08

EDINBURGH, 4th January, 1973—I have examined the Accounts of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December, 1972, 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, 1972.

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