
The
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

REPORT BY THE COUNCIL
AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December, 1975

Council (to 31st March, 1976)

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

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R. G. VEITCH, F.R.A.S., 135 Nelson Avenue, Livingston EH54 6LA

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Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

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The work of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh continues as in previous years. The Observatory is open to both school and adult groups of visitors during the winter months. During the summer, special arrangements are made for Festival visitors to obtain access to the Observatory on Sunday evenings. During the period covered by the Report, about 900 visitors in all have passed through the Observatory. The University Extra-Mural Class in Astronomy has been conducted by Dr Brand (of the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh) and Mr Veitch. There has also been introduced a Workers' Educational Association Class in Astronomy, also held at the Observatory. The enrolment for this class, thirty-two persons, indicates that there is sufficient interest in Astronomy to support the two different courses of study. The class is being conducted by Mr Dean, who has been appointed as an Assistant to the Director and gives valuable help with groups of visitors.

The membership of the Society at the beginning of the year was eighty-one. The deaths of our Honorary President, Sir Edmund Hirst, C.B.E., F.R.S. and of our former president, Mr R. M. Gall Inglis, were noted with regret. Somewhat over twenty applications for membership have been received during the year.

Two legacies have been received. One of £200 from Mr R. Plenderleith has been used for the purchase of optical equipment and one of £500 from Mr Gall Inglis has been invested to form the nucleus of a Library Fund. Our chief source of income, however, remains that from Local Authority Grants.

The syllabus for the Society's meetings was largely the work of Mr Veitch. This included the following main lectures:

Jan 3	"Scottish Telescope Makers"	D. Gavine, M.A., B.Sc.
Feb 7	"Cosmos"	Dr N. M. Pratt
Oct 3	"Sir George Airy"	Cmdr. H. D. Howse, R.N.
Nov 7	"A Geological Jigsaw"	Dr A. J. Rostron
Dec 5	"Geometry and Astronomy of Megalithic Man"	Prof. A. Thom

Informal Summer Meetings have been held as usual.

A number of books and atlases have been purchased on the recommendation of the Librarian, Mr Dean, with a view to bringing the Society's Library up to date. Members are earnestly recommended to take advantage of the Library facilities, which have tended to be somewhat neglected in the past. An overhead projector has been purchased to enhance our supply of projection equipment.

Members of the Society have been active during the year in undertaking maintenance, redecoration and building projects at the Observatory. Construction of the mounting for the 18-inch Dall-Kirkham Telescope is proceeding well, under the direction of Mr Fenoulhet. It is hoped that the instrument will be assembled and in working order in 1976. The 13-inch reflector has been painted by members of the Fellowship of Junior Astronomers and its dome repaired by the City Architect's Department. The same Department has eliminated an outbreak of dry rot in the Large Lecture Hall and redecorated the interior.

Progress in building the new dome to house the 12-inch Dall-Kirkham Telescope (formerly the property of Mr Matthew) has reached the stage where the circular track is being laid. It will be necessary to hire a mobile crane to move the cupola from storage into position on the track. The construction work has been carried out under the direction of Mr Wood, assisted by Mr Dean and other volunteers.

A request has been received from Dr Mercer of the Department of Physics, University of Southampton, for the loan of our Sidereal Clock by Bryson for purposes of research. The council are in favour of permitting him the use of the instrument, for which the consent of the District Council who are the owners of the clock has been given.

Local Government reorganisation has brought benefits to the Society. The proprietor of the Observatory is now the Edinburgh District Council and the Society's educational activities are now under the aegis of Lothian Regional Council. In Architectural Heritage Year the Director has requested the Department of Architecture of the District Council to consider restoration of the fabric of the Observatory buildings. This has met with an enthusiastic response. Extensive repairs and redecoration are planned for 1976, which will help to preserve the prominent Playfair building for posterity.

It seems reasonable to point out to the District and Regional Councils that they receive good value for money spent at the Observatory or furnished to assist the work of the Society. We provide a service to schools and citizens which would otherwise cost the ratepayer much more. The Society thus fulfils its charitable objective. As tenants, we are conscious of the privilege of being able to use the facilities of this historic and commodious set of buildings.

The Council wishes to record its thanks to Mr Wood for his services as Director of the Observatory and for his assistance in the preparation of this report.

In the name of the Council,

A. J. ROSTRON, *President*

R. G. VEITCH, *Secretary*

J. A. HUNTER, *Treasurer*

The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For Year to 31st December, 1975

I N C O M E		E X P E N D I T U R E	
Balance from 1974 :		Society	
Cash - - - -	£ 31.39	Lectures and Summer Meetings - - -	£ 106.86
Bank - - - -	1397.01	Printing and Duplicating - - - -	108.02
£1,000 7½% Treasury Stock 1985/88 (O'Neill Legacy), at cost - - - -	962.56	Honoraria, Secretaries' 1974 - - - -	175.00
	£ 2390.96	Treasurer - - - -	50.00
Subscriptions - - - -	202.00	Secretaries' and Treasurer's Expenses and Bank Charges - - - -	30.38
Donations - - - -	8.00	Insurance - - - -	6.50
Edinburgh Corporation Grant - - - -	400.00	Miscellaneous - - - -	8.96
Lothian Regional Council Grants - - - -	1600.00	Library - - - -	61.31
Legacies		Audit Fee 1974 - - - -	21.60
R. W. Plenderleith - - - -	200.00	Observatory	
R. M. Gall Inglis - - - -	500.00	Director and Assistants - - - -	337.50
	700.00	Rates - - - -	319.20
Interest		Electricity and Gas - - - -	253.91
O'Neill Legacy - - - -	77.50	Cleaning, Decorating and Maintenance - - - -	164.46
Bank Deposits - - - -	109.74	Materials for New Dome and Equipment - - - -	273.82
	187.24	Treasurer - - - -	75.00
		Director's and Treasurer's Expenses and Bank Charges - - - -	77.50
		Insurance - - - -	45.25
		Printing - - - -	37.80
		Catering - - - -	19.86
		Library - - - -	67.48
		Audit fee 1974 - - - -	21.60
		Balance carried forward :	
		Cash - - - -	29
		Bank - - - -	1766.19
		£1,000 7½% Treasury Stock at cost - - - -	962.56
		£570 12½% Treasury Stock 1993 (Gall Inglis Legacy) - - - -	497.15
	<u>£5488.20</u>		<u>3226.19</u>
			<u>£5488.20</u>

EDINBURGH, 16th January, 1976—I have examined the Accounts of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December, 1975, and am of the opinion that the foregoing Abstract is correctly stated and sufficiently vouched.

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