
The
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh



REPORT BY THE COUNCIL
AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December, 1976

COUNCIL (to 31st March 1977)

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135 Nelson Avenue, Livingston EH54 6LA

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Chemistry Dept., Heriot Watt University, Riccarton

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(1/4/76 to 13/6/76)

Miss M. GIULIDORI

(1/9/76 to 31/3/77)

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T. I. R. NEIL, Esq.

D. A. PICKUP, B.ENG., F.R.A.S.

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

The City Observatory continues to be the base for the activities of the Society. School groups and adults have visited the Observatory throughout the year. During the Edinburgh Festival special arrangements were made for visitors to be shown around the building and to observe with the McEwan telescope. The Observatory has been open to members every Friday of the year with the exception of 31st December. The Director of the Observatory is pleased to note an increase in observing by younger members with the Cox and McEwan telescopes. During the year Messrs R. Veitch, J. Dean and B. Morell served as assistants to the Director.

Edinburgh District Council have shown considerable interest in preserving the fabric of the building. Early in the year some essential repointing of the upper part of the walls was undertaken. This work is still to be completed. Redecoration of the interior was also undertaken by the District Council. This job will be done in two stages.

Steady progress continues with two of the Society's own projects. The mounting of the 18-inch Dall-Kirkham Cassegrain telescope approaches its final stages, and the new dome for the 12-inch Dall-Kirkham continues to rise slowly.

The membership of the Society at the end of the year was one hundred, which is about the same as the previous year. The Society noted with regret the deaths of Mr R. J. Allan and Mr J. Clark. Mr Allan was President during the years 1965-1967.

The formal lectures for the Society's winter meetings were as follows:

Jan 9

Feb 6 "What Men have Thought of the Universe" Dr C. Dinwoodie

Mar 5 "Viking Mission to Mars" R. G. Veitch, F.R.A.S.

Oct 1 "The Day the World Ended" Dr A. E. Roy

Nov 5 "Transient Lunar Phenomena" H. Ford, F.R.A.S.

Dec 3 "Evolution of the Elements" Dr P. Williams

During the summer, informal lectures, given by members of the Society, were as follows:

| | | |
|--------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Apr 2 | Lorimer Lecture—"Astronomy in My Lifetime" | N. G. Matthew, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E. |
| May 7 | "British Telescope Makers" | T. I. R. NEIL, Esq. |
| June 4 | "Lights in the Sky, U.F.O.s as an Astronomical Phenomenon" | D. A. Pickup, B.ENG., F.R.A.S. |
| July 2 | Film Night | |
| Aug 6 | "Meteors" | A. Campbell, Esq. |
| Sept 3 | "Astro-photography" | R. G. Veitch, F.R.A.S. |

The lecture on 2nd April was a special event, when the Society presented to Mr Matthew its Lorimer Medal in recognition of his valuable contribution to popular Astronomy over a period of almost forty years. Mr Matthew's Lorimer Lecture was entitled "Astronomy in My Lifetime".

On 16th October the Society were hosts to the Annual Meeting of the Scottish Astronomers Group, at which the principal speaker was Mr J. R. Smith, M.I.E.E., Director of the Radio Astronomy Section of the British Astronomical Association. The attendance of over forty delegates was a record for this event, and the meeting was regarded as a success by everyone present. The Council thanks those involved in the organisation of this event.

The work of the Society was greatly helped by the receipt of grants from the Edinburgh District and Lothian Regional Councils, although the total received was markedly less than in 1975. These grants covered most of the cost of operating the Observatory but rising prices are making the finances of the Society more uncertain. A legacy was received from the estate of Mr J. W. Anderson.

In the name of the Council,

A. J. ROSTRON, *President*
R. G. VEITCH, *Secretary*
J. A. HUNTER, *Treasurer*

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For Year to 31st December, 1976

| INCOME | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Balance from 1975: | | |
| Cash | £0.29 | |
| Bank | 1766.19 | |
| | <hr/> | £1766.48 |
| Subscriptions | 176.00 | |
| Donations | 42.75 | |
| Grants: | | |
| Lothian Regional Council | £880.00 | |
| Edinburgh District Council | 400.00 | |
| A.S.E. Trustees | 173.27 | |
| | <hr/> | 1453.27 |
| Interest: | | |
| Bank | £121.99 | |
| Investments | 124.74 | |
| | <hr/> | 246.73 |
| Legacy—J. W. Anderson | 250.00 | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | £3935.23 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

| EXPENDITURE | | |
|--|---------|----------|
| Lectures and Meetings | | £278.97 |
| Printing and Duplicating | | 110.22 |
| Honoraria for 1975: | | |
| Secretary | £150.00 | |
| Treasurer | 50.00 | |
| | <hr/> | 200.00 |
| Secretary's and Treasurer's Expenses | | 75.65 |
| Library | | 30.60 |
| Insurance | | 6.50 |
| Audit Fee (1975) | | 20.00 |
| Observatory: | | |
| Director and Assistants | £370.50 | |
| Rates (8 of 10 Instalments) | 276.64 | |
| Electricity and Gas | 263.41 | |
| Cleaning | 100.00 | |
| Equipment | 140.84 | |
| Treasurer (2 years) | 150.00 | |
| Director's and Treasurer's Expenses | 16.20 | |
| Library | 63.53 | |
| Insurance | 5.00 | |
| Audit Fee (1975) | 20.00 | |
| | <hr/> | 1406.12 |
| Balance Carried Forward: | | |
| Cash | £6.49 | |
| Bank | 1800.68 | |
| | <hr/> | 1807.17 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | £3935.23 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Investments: These remain unchanged, consisting of £1000 7½% Treasury Stock 1985/88 (O'Neill Legacy), cost £962.56 and £570 12¼% Treasury Stock 1995 (Gall Inglis Legacy), cost £497.15.

EDINBURGH, 28th January 1977.—I have examined the Accounts of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December 1976 and am of the opinion that the foregoing Abstract is correctly stated and sufficiently vouched.

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