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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, 1977*

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**COUNCIL (to 31st March 1978)**

**President**

I.R. CUNNINGHAM, F.R.I.C.S.

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7 Greenend Gardens, EH17 7QB

**Treasurer**

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14 Durham Road South, EH15 3PD

**Councillors**

Miss M. GIULIDORI

O. LEACH, Esq.

D.R. LAIDLAW Esq.

T.I.R. NEIL, Esq.

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

The Society has continued to meet throughout the year at the City Observatory. We have pursued the same aims this year as in the past, that is to say, school parties have visited the Observatory by arrangement with the Director, and where possible, have observed with the telescope. The Society's meetings have proceeded as usual in the two lecture rooms. On Members' Night the Observatory has been open every Friday of the year. But all this has taken place as repairs and restoration have proceeded in the building.

The District Council continued to restore the main building at considerable expense. At the Director's suggestion, the lead roof on the Observatory has been reinstated, experience showing that this provides the best protection on this windy site. This has necessarily caused a measure of inconvenience to members who wished to use the building. A much more serious inconvenience was caused when the objective of the 6-inch refractor was dismantled for cleaning and recollimation by Messrs. Grubb, Parson Ltd., of Newcastle. The instrument was out of service from the spring until October 31st. As a result, very few visitors have come to the Observatory this year by comparison with previous years. Nevertheless, during the Edinburgh Festival period, the building and domes were open to visitors who were escorted on a short tour, and they showed their appreciation by giving generously.

In order that we may attract back the groups of school parties, a circular letter has been sent out by the Regional Council Education Department. The response has already proved encouraging and next term promises to be a busy one for the Director and his assistant.

During the course of the year, there have been a number of changes amongst the office bearers. The position of the Secretary, occupied by Mr Veitch for several years, was taken over temporarily by Messrs. Neil and Wood. They had the task of completing the winter syllabus at short notice. The position of assistant to the Director has remained vacant for a considerable period, but has now been filled by Mr. G. Taylor. The library is now cared for by Miss M. Torrance. Dr. Rostron has been appointed Treasurer in succession to Dr. Hunter who indicated that he wished to relinquish office. Mr Cunningham has taken up the office of President in the spring, while Mr. R. Fenoulhet now undertakes the Secretarial duties.

Earlier in the year, the Director was approached by the Edinburgh and District Amateur Radio Club with a view to using a part of the Observatory site for transmitting and receiving short wave signals. Some members of the Club were also members of the A.S.E., and they build and operate radio astronomy equipment, and thus provide a core of technical expertise required to operate a Radio Astronomy section.

Mr. T.I.R. Neil has expressed a willingness to try to re-organise and re-vitalise the various Observing Sections, and to this end would like to call on all interested members to attend a preliminary meeting on April 7th, 1978.

Some work has continued on the various building and maintenance projects. The 13 inch Cox reflector has been overhauled, particularly where the clock drive is concerned. It is, however, not in a serviceable state yet. The 18 inch Dall-Kirkham Cassegrain is being mounted in the Crawford Dome. Work on this project is necessarily slow because much of the new mounting has to be fabricated from scratch. The new dome for the 12 inch Dall-Kirkham Cassegrain struck serious technical difficulties during the summer months, but the District Council's Job Creation Scheme squad at Calton Hill have agreed to assist with the concrete work. Members may also be aware that the Job Creation Scheme squad are laying a new path up to the front gate of the Observatory, as well as undertaking many other improvements on the Calton Hill.

In 1977 the Society heard the following lectures during the formal sessions:

Jan:	"Flamsteed"	Dr. Eric G. Forbes
Feb:	"Telescopes and Optics"	D. Sinden of Grubb Parsons.
Mar:	(After the A.G.M.) Film on Mars	
Oct:	"The stability of the solar system"	Prof. A.E. Roy
Nov:	"Orbits"	Mr. G.Y. Haig
Dec:	"Fireballs and Meteorites"	Dr. Keith Hindley

The informal summer series of lectures were marred by a number of technical faults in equipment and these have since been rectified.

*Obituary.* We record with regret the death of Mr. Hepburn who was a member of the Society from 1969.

In the name of the Council,

I.R. CUNNINGHAM, *President*  
R.G. FENOULHET, *Secretary*  
A.J. ROSTRON, *Treasurer*

# The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For Year to 31st December, 1977

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Balance from 1976:		Lectures and Meetings . . . . .	£114.60
Cash . . . . .	£6.49	Printing and Duplicating . . . . .	155.91
Bank . . . . .	<u>1800.68</u>	Honoraria:	
	£1807.17	Secretary (1976) . . . . .	£125.00
Subscriptions . . . . .	134.00	Treasurer (1976) . . . . .	50.00
Grants:		(1977) . . . . .	<u>8.33</u>
Edinburgh District Council: . . . . .	£300.00		183.33
Lothian Regional Council: . . . . .	880.00	Secretary's and Treasurer's Expenses . . . . .	57.68
A.S.E. Trustees . . . . .	<u>300.00</u>	Library . . . . .	75.50
	1480.00	Insurance (2 years) . . . . .	41.53
Interest:		Audit Fee (1976) . . . . .	20.00
Bank . . . . .	£87.32	Observatory:	
O'Neil Legacy . . . . .	77.50	Director . . . . .	£200.00.
Gall Inglis Legacy . . . . .	<u>72.66</u>	Rates	
	237.48	£69.16 for 1976-77	
		311.60 for 1977-78	
		(8 of 10 Instalments) . . . . .	380.76
		Electricity and Gas . . . . .	225.31
		Cleaning . . . . .	120.00
		Equipment . . . . .	100.93
		Treasurer . . . . .	75.00
		Director's and Treasurer's Expenses . . . . .	81.99
		Library . . . . .	121.05
		Insurance (2 years) . . . . .	127.29
		Audit Fee. . . . .	<u>20.00</u>
			1452.33
		Balance Carried Forward:	
		Cash . . . . .	£1.01
		Bank . . . . .	<u>1556.76</u>
			1557.77
	<u>£3658.65</u>		<u>£3658.65</u>

*Investments:* These remain unchanged, consisting of £1000 7¼% Treasury Stock 1985/88 (O'Neil Legacy), cost £962.56 and £570 12¼% Treasury Stock 1995 (Gall Inglis Legacy), cost £497.15.

EDINBURGH, 31st January 1978. I have examined the Accounts of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December 1977 and am of the opinion that the foregoing Abstract is correctly stated and sufficiently vouched.

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