
The
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh



REPORT BY THE COUNCIL
AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December, 1979

COUNCIL (to 31st March 1980)

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7 Greenend Gardens, Edinburgh, EH17 7QB

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The Observatory continued to be the centre of the Society's activities in 1979. As usual, groups from schools and elsewhere made evening visits, mainly in January to April, when they were shown round the buildings, and the history and the function of the Observatory were described. This was followed by a session of observing with the six-inch telescope or by a show of slides and/or 16mm film of astronomical interest when the weather was bad. Among our visitors this year was the Institute of Physics. The Observatory was also, as usual, opened to the public on some days during the Festival.

Use of the McEwan telescope by members has been largely on Fridays. The thirteen-inch Cox telescope was much used in the early part of the year but has since been plagued by problems with the drive, and its dome suffered minor damage in the recent storms.

The Fellowship of Junior Astronomers was replaced towards the end of the year by a Junior Section of the Society, it being intended that its activities should be more closely supervised by senior members. As before, meetings are on the third Friday of each month.

Thanks are due to Mr Alan Pickup for producing the monthly "ASE Bulletin", which tells members about celestial movements and about activities at the Observatory.

On Saturday 24th February, the Society was host to a meeting of the Scottish Astronomers' Group that was held at Calton Hill, and was again their host when they held their Annual Convention on Saturday 16th November.

On Saturday 29th September the Scottish Georgian Society held its A.G.M. at Calton Hill.

The Observatory continued to be used regularly by the City of Edinburgh Brass Band and by the Edinburgh and District Amateur Radio Club. After the temporary loss of their telescope at Blackford Hill, the University Astronomical Society was allowed to use the Cox reflector.

The District Council has continued to show interest in maintaining the buildings here, and at present the large lecture hall's floor is being repaired and refurbished, the outside stonework having been already renovated. In the main building many improvements have been made or are due to be made.

At the year's end the Society had 89 members, about the same as the figure for 1978.

The formal lectures that were given to the Society during 1979 were:

Jan:	"Cosmos and Cosmology"	Dr. R. Dodd, Royal Observatory, Edinburgh.
Feb:	Presidential Address "Past and Present Measurements"	Mr. I.R. Cunningham, (F.R.I.C.S.)
Oct:	"The Exploration of the Solar System by Spacecraft"	Prof. A.E. Roy, Glasgow University.
Nov:	"Binary Stars"	Prof. Z. Kopal, Manchester University.
Dec:	"Galaxy Redshifts"	Dr. D. Emerson, Edinburgh University.

The informal lectures given to the Society in the summer were:

Apr:	"Our Local Star"	Mr. G. Taylor
May:	"Galileo"	Miss M. Giulidori
June:	"The Edinburgh Astronomical Institution"	Prof. R.H. Stoy, C.B.E.
July:	"The Solar Parallax"	Mr. R.G. Veitch
Aug:	"The History of Observatories"	Mr. M. Millar
Sept:	"Mysterious Molecular Moities"	Dr. J. Hunter

The Society welcomes the continued support of both the District and the Regional Councils at a time of financial stringency. However rising expenditure, particularly on rates and fuel, means that we must look for increased funding. As a step towards this goal, we regret that the annual subscription must be doubled to £4 for the coming year, though the rate for members under 19 years or over 65 will be held to £2.

The Society is sorry to learn of the death of two members during the year, Mr K. Tabor and Mr R.W. Wrigley, M.A., F.R.S.E., a Lorimer Trustee and President during 1948-49 and 1954-55. He died at the age of 96.

In the name of the Council,

D.A. PICKUP, *President*
R.G. FENOULHET, *Secretary*
A.J. ROSTRON, *Treasurer*

The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For Year to 31st December, 1979

INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Balance from 1978:	Lectures and Meetings £ 56.39
Cash £ 0.26	Printing and Duplicating 89.48
Bank 1588.45	Engraving of list of Presidents 6.46
£1588.71	Honoraria:
Subscriptions 212.00	Secretary (1978) £125.00
Grants:	Treasurer (1978) 50.00
Edinburgh District Council £ 365.00	175.00
Lothian Regional Council 880.00	Secretary's and Treasurer's Expenses 33.32
1245.00	Library 108.38
Interest:	Insurance 39.50
Bank £ 96.36	Audit fee (1978) 27.00
O'Neill Legacy 77.50	Observatory:
Gall Inglis Legacy 72.66	Director £ 260.42
246.52	Rates:
Donations:	£116.22 for 1978-79
Mr. A. Sprott £ 10.00	£554.29 for 1979-80
Scottish Georgian Society 10.00	(8 of 10 instalments) 670.51
City of Edinburgh Brass Band 42.23	Electricity and gas 393.50
Edinburgh and District	Cleaning 140.00
Amateur Radio Club 6.26	Treasurer 75.00
68.49	Director's and Treasurer's Expenses 29.52
£3360.72	Library 70.55
	Insurance 49.07
	Audit fee 27.00
	1715.57
	Balance carried forward:
	Cash £ 2.46
	Bank 1107.16
	1109.62
	£3360.72

Investments: These remain unchanged, consisting of £1000 7¼% Treasury Stock 1985/88 (O'Neill Legacy), cost £962.56 and £570 12¾% Treasury Stock 1995 (Gall Inglis Legacy), cost £497.15.

EDINBURGH, 6th February, 1980. We have examined the Accounts of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December, 1979 and are of the opinion that the foregoing Abstract is correctly stated and sufficiently vouched.

SCOTT, OSWALD & CO. C.A., Auditors.