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The  
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh



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REPORT BY THE COUNCIL  
AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ending 31st December, 1988

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COUNCIL (to 31st March 1989)

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J.D. Waldron, L.B.I.P.P.

1988 was quite an active year at the City Observatory. In the first few months there were the usual lecture meetings (which, of course, continued through the year) then, from mid-May until late October, the Edinburgh in Depth show in the City Dome. This excellent production, the work of the Observatory Director, Jamie Shepherd and Pete Cattell, was well received by the 15,000 or so members of the general public who saw it. It was also shown separately to some 30 groups of schoolchildren, about half of whom also enjoyed a conducted tour of the Playfair building. The success of this imaginative 3D audio-visual show amply demonstrates the potential of the City Observatory as a major public attraction combining education with entertainment. It also increased public awareness of the fact that the Observatory was still, as it has been for over 200 years, a site of active astronomical activity.

In late September, the Observatory was open for 5 nights during the best opposition of Mars for 17 years. Over 300 members of the public visited the Observatory during the 5 evenings and, despite poor seeing conditions for much of the time, most expressed considerable interest in what they had seen. Oh, that more of the city lights directed more of their output to the streets where it is needed, rather than into the sky where (at considerable expense) it is wasted!

Other activities included a function of the Edinburgh-San Diego Twin City Association (attendance 70); The Observer Fringe Sunday function (attendance 80) and an outdoor projection display by the Fruitmarket Gallery.

Late September also saw the re-launching of beginners' courses in astronomy at the City Observatory. These had been presented for many years by a former Director, Norman Matthew, and their reinstatement by Iain Neil is in furtherance of the Society's aims (enshrined in the first paragraph of the Constitution) to promote popular interest in astronomy in and around Edinburgh.

The Junior Club meetings have, unfortunately, been poorly attended. Although, from enquiries received, it is clear that there is quite a lot of interest in astronomy among the City's schoolchildren, this interest needs to be guided and sustained. We really need the services of someone with a continuing interest in children and astronomy, who is prepared to devote the time and effort to this demanding but rewarding task. Any volunteers?

It is gratifying to be able to report that the skirt of the Cox dome has now been repaired and the dome repainted inside and out. It is hoped to restore the 13-inch telescope to its rightful place during 1989.

The Scottish Astronomy Weekend at the end of September attracted between 40 and 50 participants from all over the U.K., many of whom visited the Observatory in the evening.

At the end of the year, membership was between 130 and 140. It is difficult to be precise because some members forget to pay their subscriptions until sent reminders and membership does not lapse due to non-payment until the end of February.

The lectures given during 1988 were:-

Jan.	"Astronomical Photography"	Dr. G.Y. Haig, Paisley College of Technology
Feb.	"Hévelius and his Companions"	Dr. J.R. Stapleton, St. Andrew's University
Mar.	"The Magellanic Clouds"	Dr. M.T. Brück. Royal Obs., Edinburgh
Apr.	"The Great Bear"	Mr. B. Kelly
May	"An Australian Experience"	Mr. J.D. Waldron
Jun.	"Natural Satellites"	Mr. G. Taylor
Jul.	"Astronomical Distances"	Mr. J. Heeley
Aug.	Members' Night	(Short talks by various members)
Sep.	"An Astronomer's View of Astrology"	Mr. D.A. Pickup
Oct.	"A New Infra-red View of the Sky"	Dr. M. Mountain, Royal Obs., Edinburgh
Nov.	"How are Stars Born?"	Dr. P. Brand. Royal Obs., Edinburgh
Dec.	"Star Clusters"	Dr. G. Heggie, Dept. of Astronomy, Edinburgh University

We regret to announce the death of two members during the year: Owen Pearson in August and W.H.F. Hyslop in November. Mr. Pearson was a chemist by profession and an active observer and contributor to the Journal and Mr. Hyslop was a well known Edinburgh Sheriff.

Finally our thanks are due to: Edinburgh District Council for their help with grants and general upkeep and assistance; the Director of the Royal Observatory, Blackford Hill for providing photocopying facilities; David Todd for auditing the accounts and acting as secretary and Treasurer to the Lorimer Trust; Dave Gavine for producing the Journals; Gerry Taylor for the Bulletins; Guy Buchanan for assisting with the astronomy classes and all others who helped with the running of the Observatory and the Society.

In the name of the Council:

J. Shepherd	President
T.I.R. Neil	Secretary
A.J. Rostron	Treasurer

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year to 31st December, 1988

<u>INCOME</u>			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Brought forward from 1987:			a) for the Society:	
Cash on hand	3.62		Lecturers and Meetings	21.00
Bank Balances	<u>2,054.64</u>	2,058.26	Printing and Duplicating	113.12
Subscriptions		596.50	Honoraria:	
Sale of A.S.E. Journals		2.00	Secretary (1987)	100.00
Grants:			Treasurer (1987)	<u>100.00</u>
City of Edinburgh	3,500.00		Telephone (incl. rental of £107)	292.76
Society's Trustees	<u>1,025.00</u>	4,525.00	Library (incl. half cost of Journals)	31.66
Interest:			Insurance	70.69
Bank Deposits	40.98		Scottish Astronom.	
Trustee Sav. Bank	20.87		Weekend - temporary loan re initial expenses	80.00
O'Neill Bequest	106.93		National Savings Dept. Investment a/c - see note below	1,000.00
Gall Inglis Bequest	<u>72.66</u>	241.44	Bank Charges	1.54
Scottish Astronom.			Total for Society:	<u>1,810.77</u>
Weekend - repayment of temporary loan		80.00	b) for the Observatory:	
Donations:			Director	350.00
San Diego Twin City Association	30.00		Rates:	
Donations Box (incl. 1987)	<u>30.00</u>	60.00	1987/88	500.80
"Edinburgh in Depth" exhibition - reimbursement of electrical energy cost		503.59	1988/89	<u>2,258.70</u>
Proceeds of redemption of £1,000 7½% Treasury Stock, 1985/88 (originally cost £962.56)		1,000.00	(8 of 10 instalments)	2,759.50
			Gas	40.35
			Electricity (see contra)	1,019.44
			Cleaning	180.00
			Honoraria:	
			Secretary (1987)	100.00
			Treasurer (1987)	<u>100.00</u>
			Library (incl. half cost of Journals)	31.66
			Insurance	141.38
			Bank Charges	.57
			Total for Observatory:	<u>4,722.90</u>
			<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE:</u>	
			for Society	1,810.77
			for Observatory	<u>4,722.90</u>
				6,533.67
			<u>CARRIED FORWARD TO 1989:</u>	
			Cash on hand	.47
			Bank Balances	<u>2,532.65</u>
				2,533.12
		<u>£ 9,066.79</u>		<u>£ 9,066.79</u>

INVESTMENTS:

<u>Gall Inglis Bequest</u>	-	£570	12½% Treasury Stock, 1995 (cost £497.15)
<u>O'Neill Bequest</u>	-	£658.13	14% Treasury Stock, 1996 (cost £600)
	-	£1,000	National Savings Department Investment Account
			(This last item was the re-investment of the proceeds of the redemption in January, 1988 of £1,000 7½% Treasury Stock, 1985/88 - at par)

I have examined the accounts of The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December, 1988 and am satisfied that the above abstract is both correctly detailed and properly vouched.

*as usual*