



EDITORIAL

The Bust of Newton

At Herstmonceux this summer I asked my old friend Al Hunter, Chief Assistant to the Astronomer Royal, if he had anything new to show me. He said, "Have you seen the bust of Newton?" And then he told me this fascinating story.

Beginning in 1738 there had appeared on the annual inventory of the Royal Observatory the item, "Terracotta bust of Newton by Roubilliac". Though executed after Newton's death, it had been declared by Newton's nephew to be the best likeness of his uncle that he had seen.

In about 1830 the item disappeared from the inventory, and from about 1870 onward there appeared: "Plaster bust of Newton". It had always been presumed that the terracotta bust had been lost or destroyed and replaced by a plaster copy. In any event, the plaster bust was treated with little respect; its nose was painted red, it wore a tin hat and its place was over the door to the men's toilet under the 26-inch telescope. When the move to Herstmonceux was being effected in 1961 the bust was relegated to a pile of junk that was to be discarded; but a workman carrying it away noticed that under a chipped edge it showed red, and he pointed this out to a staff member. Intrigued by this, the staff member took it to the British Museum where one of the art curators cleaned it and with great excitement declared it to be undoubtedly the terracotta bust by Roubilliac. The head had been broken off and glued back on, and, apparently to conceal the damage, the whole piece had been painted white. Now the bust has an honoured place in the rotunda of the castle. In July of this year the staff were delighted to learn that a Roubilliac bust of Alexander Pope had brought £ 20,000 at auction at Sotheby's.

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A miniature copy of the Roubilliac bust carved in ivory is also on display, and this was discovered in an even more unlikely manner. Someone rescued it years ago from a pile of discarded ivory which had been purchased from a dealer to be cut up to make ivory scales. Presumably it had been carved before 1830 when the original bust was in good repute, though the carver and the original owner are unknown.

Dr. Hunter also showed me Flamsteed's observing book and an interesting few lines written on the fly-leaf which was noticed for the first time about five years ago. It reads: "Sept. 1694. Received this day of Mr. Flamsteed two sheets MS of the places of the moon observed and calculated for the years 89, 90 and part of 91, which I promise not to communicate without his consent. Newton".

This puts a new light on the famous quarrel between Newton and Flamsteed. The histories of astronomy always had it that Flamsteed behaved miserably towards Newton in withholding the observations which were so vital to Newton's computations. It seems now fairer to say that Flamsteed was the injured party inasmuch as Newton broke his solemn written promise in releasing the observations without Flamsteed's consent.

J.F.H.

Library

Unless the list of missing books is soon reduced, Dr. MacRae will empower Sheila Smolkin to take action under the War Measures Act.

Coelostat

A coelostat has been purchased for the campus roof and the two required 10-inch quartz flats have been made. The installation will permit a large solar image to be produced in the fourth-year laboratory.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The IAU and Summer Symposia

The following attended the General Assembly of the I.A.U. at Brighton August 18-26: Drs. Anand, Clement, Fernie, Garrison, Heard, Hogg, Kronberg, MacRae, Roeder, Seaquist, van den Bergh and Tom Barnes. Dr. Fernie gave an invited review paper on "The General Consequences of Uncertainty in the Ratio of Total to Selective Interstellar Absorption". Dr. Garrison also attended a Symposium on Galaxies and Quasars in Uppsala. Dr. Heard gave a paper on "Selection of 9th Magnitude Standard Velocity Stars". Dr. Kronberg gave a paper at Brighton on "The 21-cm. Polarization Distribution in Two Radio Galaxies and also attended a Symposium on The Crab Nebula at Jodrell Bank August 6-8; Dr. Seaquist also attended the Jodrell Bank Symposium. Dr. van den Bergh gave a paper at Brighton on "Missing Mass in Clusters and Galaxies"; on "The Stellar Populations in Galaxies" at the Uppsala Symposium on Galaxies and Quasars; and on "Cassiopeia A" at the Jodrell Bank Symposium on the Crab Nebula.

Dave DuPuy and Tom Barnes attended the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Stellar Evolution and Variable Stars at Oporto, Portugal, Aug. 30 to Sept. 13. Former Toronto student Juliana Sackmann also attended the NATO Institute.

Cleveland Meetings

Dr. MacRae addressed the Cleveland Astronomical Society on October 16 on "Long Base-line Interferometry". He and Drs. Percy and Garrison also attended a meeting of the Ohio Neighbourhood Astronomers on October 17 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Warner and Swasey Observatory in Cleveland.

Ottawa Meeting

Drs. Fernie, MacRae and van den Bergh attended the meeting of the National Committee for the I.A.U. in Ottawa on Oct. 23.

Other Tripping

Gerald Longworth made a trip to Canton, Ohio to inspect the dome for the 24-inch Las Campanas telescope which has been manufactured by the Astro Tec Mfg. Inc.

Dr. Heard took the "G12" grating to Bausch and Lomb Inc. at Rochester for a cleaning job. They were able to remove much of the grime accumulated since 1966, but the delivery of energy into the blue region was only improved by about 5% to 62%, whereas it had been about 80% originally. A new replica must be put on the quartz blank, and arrangements will be made to do this at a convenient time soon. Meanwhile an improved grating cover has been constructed in the shop and this will be coupled to the plate capper so that the grating henceforth will be uncovered only during the exposures.

SEMINARS

October: There were the following changes from last month's announcements.

- Oct. 13 Dr. Sylvia Torres Peimbert, "Comparison of Super Metal-Rich
D.D.O. Objects with Stellar Evolution Models".
- Oct. 14 Dr. Manuel Peimbert, "Temperatures of Gaseous Nebulae".
McLennan

- Oct. 16 Dr. Manuel Peimbert, "Chemical Abundances of Gaseous
McLennan Nebulae".
- Oct. 21 Dr. Jon-Erik Solheim, Institute of Theoretical
McLennan Astrophysics, University of Oslo, "Current Problems in
 Cosmology".
- also Dr. Manuel Peimbert, "On the Emission Lines in the Nuclei
 of Normal Galaxies".

November

- Tues. Dr. Phillip Gregory, "A Radio Astronomy Study of the Earth".
Nov. 3
D.D.O.
- Fri. Dr. E. E. Salpeter, Cornell University, "Interstellar
Nov. 6 Molecules".
McLennan, 203
4 p.m.
- Tues. Dr. Stephen van Agt, "Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies" .
Nov. 10
D.D.O.
- Tues. Dr. N. Visvanathan, Harvard University, "Optical
Nov. 17 Observations of the Crab Nebula".
D.D.O.
- Tues. Dr. J.L. Locke, N.R.C., "Compact Radio Sources".
Nov. 24
D.D.O.

PAPERS SUBMITTED IN OCTOBER

- S. van den Bergh: "Is the Local Group a Stable Cluster".
- "Faint Supernova in an Anonymous Galaxy"
 "Possible Flare Star near M31".
- J.D. Fernie: "The Historical Quest for the Nature of the Spiral
 Nebula"

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

Dr. Pierre Demarque says he enjoyed the recent Editorial on "English as the International Language", and believes that it will provide them with new thoughts at Yale University where the foreign language requirement is, as elsewhere, a continuous source of controversy.

Prof. Ed. Kennedy, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan writes that he has sent a copy of the same editorial to their Dean of Graduate Studies.

Juliana Sackmann has written to say that she enjoyed meeting so many Canadian friends at the I.A.U.

Dr. Donald Morton of Princeton, former student in our Department has written to let his friends here know that he is to be married in Princeton on Dec. 12 to Winnifred Austin, Ph.D., who at present is engaged in research work for Union Carbide.

APPOINTMENTS

To the I.A.U.

Dr. Roeder has been appointed a "Charter member" of the newly formed Commission 47 on Cosmology.

Dr. van den Bergh has been elected to the organizing committees of Commissions 28 (Galaxies) and 37 (Star Clusters).

Among those newly elected to the I.A.U. are Dr. Anand, Dr. Clement, Dr. Garrison and Dr. Seaquist.

To the Staff

Mrs. Kathleen Turner is a new office staff assistant in the Department on a part-time basis (10:30 to 4:30 for four days weekly). Her desk is in room 1401.

Miss Debby Munshaw has been appointed to the Observatory office staff to assist Joan Topley and Sheila Smolkin.

D.D.O. REPRESENTED ON THE BACK OF THE MOON

Among the back-of-the-moon craters named at Brighton this summer are: Chant (named for former D.D.O. Director, C. A. Chant); Hogg, (named jointly for former Director F.S. Hogg and for the late Australian astronomer A.R. Hogg); and van den Bergh (named for George van den Bergh, late uncle of Dr. S. van den Bergh).