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**THE ICHA NEWSLETTER**  
**NEWSLETTER OF THE INTER-UNION COMMISSION FOR**  
**HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY\***

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No. 9 – January 2010

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\* The ICHA includes IAU Commission 41 (History of Astronomy), all of whose members are, *ipso facto*, members of the ICHA.

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## A. Message from the ICHA President

We have left the International Year of Astronomy behind us, and what a successful year it was for our Commission! For a start, there were several major international meetings during the year relating to astronomical history and heritage, of which the Commission was directly involved in the organization of three:

- “Astronomy Education between Past and Future”, a 3.5-day Special Session at the IAU’s XXVIIth General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro in August. This was jointly organised with IAU Commission 46 (Astronomy Education), and the co-chairs were Rajesh Kochhar, Jean Pierre de Greve and Ed Guinan.
- “Accelerating the rate of astronomical discovery”, another 3.5-day Special Session at the Rio General Assembly, this one jointly organised with IAU Commission 5 (Documentation and Astronomical Data). The co-chairs were Ray Norris and Clive Ruggles.
- “Astronomy and its Instruments before and after Galileo”, a 5-day international conference held in San Servolo, Venice, on Sep 29–Oct 3. This joint symposium of the IAU and the INAF Astronomical Observatory of Padova was co-chaired by Luisa Pigatto and Clive Ruggles.

Separate reports on some of these meetings can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. Another two international meetings are worthy of special mention because of the extensive involvement of members of the Commission and its Working Groups:

- IAU symposium 260 on “The Role of Astronomy in Culture”, held in Paris in January following the IYA Opening Ceremony.
- An international conference on “Astronomical Heritage: Across Time and Continents”, under the patronage of UNESCO and held in Kazan, Russia, on August 19–23.

On top of all this, many ICHA members across the world were closely involved, both as organisers and participants, in numerous successful IYA outreach events in their own countries.

Yet the significance of 2009 extends beyond successful meetings and events. In the future, we may well look back on the year as the crucial turning point in preserving some of the world's most important astronomical heritage. The starting point was the signing of a formal Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the IAU in October 2008, following which the Commission's Working Group on Astronomy and World Heritage was established. This is charged with advancing UNESCO's Initiative to help identify, protect and preserve the world's most outstanding heritage sites relating to astronomy. A more detailed separate report about its activities can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

I would like to mention one other significant event for the history of astronomy that has taken place during 2009. This is the completion—after nearly 40 years—of the General History of Astronomy. While this hugely ambitious project was never realized in the form originally envisaged—seven books were to be published by Cambridge University Press, but only three ever appeared—it has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion through the very considerable efforts of Michael Hoskin, including the publication of various key articles in the *Journal for the History of Astronomy*. Taken as a whole, the GHA forms by far the most detailed synthesis available of academic history of astronomy and will endure as an archive of huge value representing the state of the discipline in the late twentieth century. The complete contents list is available on the Commission's website <http://www.historyofastronomy.org/>.

As we move forward into 2010, the Commission is giving its backing to the “Oxford IX” international symposium on archaeoastronomy to be held in Lima, Peru, in January 2011. The “Oxford” symposia are the foremost international conferences in this interdisciplinary field, and have been held at approximately four-year intervals since 1981, when Michael Hoskin organised the first one in Oxford itself. The theme of Oxford IX is “Archaeoastronomy and Ethnoastronomy: Building Bridges between Cultures” and invited keynote speakers will include the anthropologist Gary Urton and IAU Vice-President George Miley. A call for papers will be issued shortly on the ISAAC website <http://www.archaeoastronomy.org/>.

More news of forthcoming events will be carried on the Commission website.

Turning to administrative matters, the draft minutes of the Commission's triennial business meeting, held on August 5 during the IAU GA in Rio, can be downloaded from the Commission website <http://www.historyofastronomy.org/> (see “Document Archive” under the “News and Reports” menu).

The OC for the New Triennium is:

- President: Clive Ruggles (UK)
- Vice-President: Rajesh Kochhar (India)
- Immediate Past President: Nha Il-Seong (Korea)

- Secretary: J. A. Belmonte Avilés (Spain)
- Brenda Corbin (USA)
- Teije De Jong (Netherlands)
- Ray Norris (Australia)
- Luisa Pigatto (Italy)
- Mitsuru Soma (Japan)
- Chris Sterken (Belgium)
- Sun Xiaochun (China)

The Commission is pleased to announce the formation of a new Working Group. This has been created, for the current triennium only, in order to promote Johannes Kepler awareness and studies in view of the demise in 2008 of the Kepler Kommission, which oversaw the publication of Kepler's Collected Works (Gesammelte Werke).

We have decided to resurrect the ICHA Newsletter, to be produced in electronic form and distributed by e-mail to Commission members as well as made available on the website. Ileana Chini (Italy) has kindly agreed to be our editor-in-chief once again, with Brenda Corbin, Teije De Jong, Rajesh Kochhar and Sun Xiaochun acting as the editorial board. Our hope is that the newsletter will appear at four-monthly intervals. One of the features of the new Newsletter is the "News" section reporting on news items concerning Commission members. Brenda Corbin is co-ordinating this section and we encourage members to submit to her any interesting items such as awards won, books published, new appointments, and so on.

Sun Xiaochun has offered to take over as the Commission's webmaster, although at the time of writing the transfer of the website to China has not been finalised. The address will remain unchanged, namely <http://www.historyofastronomy.org/>.

Under the new rules, IAU members are free to join as many Commissions as they wish and we hope that this will encourage more IAU members with a serious interest in the history of their subject to take a more active part in the Commission's activities. Any IAU member wishing to join the Commission is encouraged to contact the secretary, Juan Belmonte. At the same time, not forgetting that the ICHA is an inter-Union Commission, we are keen to include among our membership more historians of astronomy whose professional standing is primarily within history or another humanities-based discipline rather than within astronomy, and who may not be IAU members. We are currently reviewing the procedures for the admission of non-IAU members to the Commission and have appointed Gudrun Wolfschmidt (Germany) as special officer responsible for liaison with our other parent Union, the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science (Division of the History of Science and Technology).

I would like to conclude by wishing all Commission members a productive and successful triennium.

*Clive Ruggles*  
*Leicester, 20 January 2010*

## B. ICHA International Meetings in 2009

- ✓ **Astronomy Education between Past and Future**  
Special Session 4 at the IAU General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro  
(see report from Magda Stavinschi, p. 13)
  
- ✓ **Accelerating the rate of astronomical discovery**  
(Special Session 5 at the IAU General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro)

As the public announcements regarding the 2009 IYA had emphasized, new astronomical discoveries are currently being made at an extraordinary rate, while the invention of the telescope ushered in an equally momentous “golden age of discovery” 400 years ago. This seemed an optimum occasion to review the extent to which astronomers are achieving the optimal rate of astronomical discovery. Can we identify and overcome the limits to progress? What steps can be taken to accelerate the rate of expansion of astronomical knowledge? What lessons can be learnt both from the present and the past?

This wide-ranging meeting addressed a range of potential limits to progress in astronomy: paradigmatic, technological, organisational, and political. The historical perspective was a strand running throughout, each topic being examined from both modern and historical perspectives. The meeting attracted many excellent papers, the line-up of internationally renowned speakers including four IAU Presidents, past, present and future; the discoverer of pulsars, Jocelyn Bell Burnell; and the physicist and popular science writer Lawrence Krauss.

The Proceedings will be published in *Proceedings of Science* (<http://pos.sissa.it/>).

*Raymond P. Norris*

- ✓ **Astronomy and its Instruments before and after Galileo**  
Venice-San Servolo Isle, 28 September -2 October 2009

The International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) declared by the United Nations (UN) on 20 December 2007, celebrated the 400th anniversary of Galileo’s introduction of the telescope for astronomical observations, and the birth of modern telescopic astronomy. For this celebration a joint symposium of International Astronomical Union (IAU) and INAF Astronomical Observatory of Padova-I, entitled “Astronomy and its Instruments Before and After Galileo”, was held at San Servolo Island, Venice, Italy, on 28 September – 2 October 2009. Participants from all around the world presented their contribution in 9 different sessions: Galileo and

His Time: the Venetian Cultural Environment; Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative (round table); Astronomical Structures through the Ages: from Stone Monuments to Modern Observatories; Mathematical and Mechanical Instruments for Astronomy; Space Observatories as Astronomical Instruments; Astronomy from 17th to 20th century; Astronomy Education and Development; Communicating Astronomy with the Public; Astronomy and Society (public debate): 50 contributions in all were presented.

This symposium served as a corollary to the UNESCO-IAU Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative which, through a cooperation formalised in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of 30 October 2008, aims to identify, safeguard and promote cultural properties relating to astronomy. Only tangible and immovable “cultural properties” are eligible for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List, but all the other categories of astronomical heritage (instruments, documents etc.) are of vital importance, both in contributing to the significance of a particular place and for science heritage in general. Recommendations were formulated during the round table for promoting urgent actions to achieve these objectives.

*Luisa Pigatto*

## C. ICHA Working Group Reports

### ☞ **Astronomical Archives Working Group**

*Report on the business meeting of the IAU Commission 41 Working Group  
“Archives” in the IAU XXVII General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

The meeting took place in the Session 3 (14:00-15:30) of August 11 in the room R2.11 of the Sulamérica Convention Center, as announced in the Program Book of the XXVII General Assembly. In the calendar of business meetings (IAU Information Bulletin 103, p. 16) it had been scheduled for the Session 2 (11:00-12:30). To my knowledge the WG was not consulted for the alteration, neither made aware when it was done.

Here is the list of attendants whose signatures were collected:

NAME	E-MAIL	COUNTRY
Oscar T. Matsuura	<a href="mailto:otmats@terra.com.br">otmats@terra.com.br</a>	Brazil
Il-Seong Nha	<a href="mailto:slisnha@chol.com">slisnha@chol.com</a>	Korea
Ki-Won Lee	<a href="mailto:kwlee@kasi.re.kr">kwlee@kasi.re.kr</a>	Korea
Raquel Oliveira	<a href="mailto:raqueloliveira@mast.br">raqueloliveira@mast.br</a>	Brazil
Christina Barboza	<a href="mailto:christina@mast.br">christina@mast.br</a>	Brazil
Sarah Nha	<a href="mailto:sarahloisnha@hotmail.com">sarahloisnha@hotmail.com</a>	Korea
Tomoko Fujiwara	<a href="mailto:tomokof@rche.kyushu-u.ac.jp">tomokof@rche.kyushu-u.ac.jp</a>	Japan
Mitsuru Soma	<a href="mailto:Mitsuru.Soma@nao.ac.jp">Mitsuru.Soma@nao.ac.jp</a>	Japan

Hong-Jin Yang	<a href="mailto:hiyang@kasi.re.kr">hiyang@kasi.re.kr</a>	Korea
Daniel W. E. Green	<a href="mailto:green@cfa.harvard.edu">green@cfa.harvard.edu</a>	USA
David Tholen	<a href="mailto:tholen@ifa.hawaii.edu">tholen@ifa.hawaii.edu</a>	USA

Opening the session, all the attendants were greeted and welcome. Then I declared I was presiding the meeting on behalf of Dr. Ileana Chinnici, Chairperson of the WG who, being unable to attend the General Assembly, asked me to chair the session.

Then, using PowerPoint I presented the guideline of the session:

1. Discussion and approval of the 2003-2006 report
2. Discussion and approval of the 2006-2009 report
3. Ratification of the proposed WG Committee for the triennium 2009-2012
4. Continuation of our inquiry on IAU Archives in adhering countries:
  - a) sub-committees in geographical areas
  - b) involvement of historians and librarians
  - c) a model file card for the archives
  - d) proposal of a meeting for the Latin-American Sub-Committee in the Museum of Astronomy (MAST) in Rio de Janeiro
  - e) brief communication by Mitsuru Soma (by request)
5. Short science session
  - a) “Halley's comet of 1758 recorded in Korean historical documents”, K.-W. Lee, S.-H. Kim and Y.-S. Ahn
  - b) “Brazilian archives and the history of 20th century astronomy”, C.H. Barboza and R. dos Santos Oliveira

With regard to the item 1, the report published in *J.Astron.Hist. and Heritage*, **10**(1) 72, 2007 was projected on the screen and approved unanimously.

Following the same procedure for the item 2, the report published in *IAU Transactions XXVIA* 1-8 was also approved unanimously.

Concerning the item 3, Il-Seong Nha considered the proposal of one more name to be specified later on. This was regarded as a possibility open for further approval. Daniel Green raised an issue about the geographical region ascribed to each member. After discussion, the following proposed composition was approved unanimously:

Ileana Chinnici (Italy), Chairperson  
Oscar T. Matsuura (Brazil), Vice-Chairman  
Brenda Corbin (USA)  
Suzanne Débarbat (France)  
Daniel Green (USA)  
Tsuko Nakamura (Japan)  
Adam J. Perkins (UK)  
Irakli Simonia (Georgia)

In relation to the item 4-a it was suggested that the measure already taken in Latin America, creating for this region a Sub-Committee of the WG composed by the delegate of each affiliated country to the IAU, could be reproduced in other regions. It was emphasized that the Sub-Committee and its delegates enjoy an official status in the IAU organogram. The advantage is to confer to the delegates a formal authority in their ambits, what can make easier their tasks and the access to the needed resources.

As for the item 4-b, based on my recent talk with Suzanne Débarbat, I recalled that the centennial of IAU is approaching, so the term for the tasks of the WG as well. Therefore the importance of having in all countries affiliated to the IAU persons really committed with the tasks of the WG was stressed. The involvement of historians, librarians and archivists in the tasks of the WG was strongly recommended.

Concerning the item 4-c Christina Barboza proposed the elaboration of a model file card for the archives. She accepted the task of elaborating the model that will be distributed later. Of course, this should work simply as a suggestion that each one can adapt and improve according to the local circumstances.

Item 4-d was the communication that the director of the Museum of Astronomy (MAST) in Rio de Janeiro is willing to harbor in that institution a meeting of people effectively involved in the tasks of the Latin-American Sub-Committee of the WG. The intention is to promote the discussion and exchange of experience on the archival practices in the search, organization, record, preservation, creation of digital repository of documents etc. This initiative can boost the activities of the WG and could also be tried elsewhere.

In item 4-e Mitsuru Soma announced “The Seventh International Conference on Oriental Astronomy” (ICOA-7) to be held in the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan in Mitaka, Tokyo, from 6 to 10 September 2010 (see Index).

Afterward a short science session took place with two oral presentations.

With all items of the guideline fully covered, I closed the session in the due time thanking very much the presence and the team spirit of the attendance.

*Oscar T. Matsuura*

## **☞ Astronomy and World Heritage**

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the IAU in October 2008, the ICHA’s Astronomy and World Heritage Working Group was established to fulfil the IAU’s commitments under the MoU. In broad terms, its remit is to help ensure that cultural properties and artefacts significant in the development of astronomy, together with the intangible heritage of astronomy, are duly studied, protected and maintained, both for the greater benefit of humankind and to the potential benefit of future historical research. The WG’s activities acquired a high profile during 2009, with Astronomy and World Heritage being identified as one of twelve International Cornerstone Projects for the International Year of Astronomy.

The main activities for the Working Group during 2009 were:

- (i) To prepare, in collaboration with ICOMOS (the International Council for Monuments and Sites, the Advisory Body to UNESCO on nominations of cultural sites for the World Heritage List) a Thematic Study—a book-length appraisal seeking to identify and define the general characteristics that mostly clearly demonstrate “Outstanding Universal Value” in relation to astronomy.
- (ii) To expand the UNESCO Astronomy and World Heritage “Timeframe” (held on the World Heritage Centre’s website with restricted access, and with information limited to sites already on the World Heritage List) into a publicly accessible database, discussion forum, and document-repository on astronomical heritage sites throughout the world.

Progress on the Thematic Study has been excellent. At the time of writing, the chapter contributions and case studies have been received, on themes varying from Prehistory to Modern Astrophysics and Space Heritage. The co-editors, Prof. Michel Cotte from ICOMOS and Prof. Clive Ruggles, Chair of the Working Group, aim to finish the editing by the end of February, in order to allow the report to be published in April or May, in time for the document to be presented to UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee at its 2010 Annual Meeting in July.

The transfer of UNESCO’s Timeframe onto the Working Group’s website has been delayed owing to problems establishing legal agreements with UNESCO, but these problems are now resolved and at the time of writing the agreements are being drawn up. In the meantime, a test website has been developed and is currently being trialled by members of the Working Group. UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre is extremely supportive of the idea that the Working Group should set up an information source and forum that will aid States Parties in the preparation of nominations “on-line”. We envisage that the new website will be in the public domain by the spring of 2010.

Given the political and public support given to the UNESCO-IAU Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative during 2009, there has been widespread support helping to bring these two “flagship” activities to a satisfactory and timely conclusion during 2010.

For more information see the WG’s website,  
<http://www.astronomicalheritage.org/>

*Clive Ruggles*

## **Historical Instruments Working Group**

(See report on the ICHA International Symposium “Astronomy and its Instruments Before and After Galileo”)

## ☞ Johannes Kepler Working Group

The Commission is pleased to announce the formation of a new Johannes Kepler Working Group (JKWG). This was created in October 2009 and will exist during the current triennium only.

The JKWG was formed with the principal aim of furthering Kepler studies through: i) representations at international level with other organizations and institutions, specifically ICSU and its member organizations (e.g. the IUHPS); ii) establishing an IAU WG website dedicated to Johannes Kepler; iii) Producing and encouraging relevant publications (e.g. textbooks and monographs; iv) Raising funding for projects relevant to Kepler studies, and v) investigating the possibility of digitizing Kepler's collected works (*Johannes Keplers Gesammelte Werke*, 1935–), now nearing completion under the editorship of the Kepler Commission of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, and manuscript material, owned by the Russian Academy of Science.

The JKWG was first proposed by participants at Special Session 9 of the XXVII General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union (11-14 August, Rio de Janeiro). To be truly representative of current Kepler studies that membership needs to be expanded. The present membership comprises:

- T. J. Mahoney (Spain) [Chair]
- A. E. L. Davis (UK)
- W. Donahue (USA)
- S. Dupré (Belgium)
- J. V. Field (UK)
- E. Hoeg (Denmark,)
- G. Hon (Israel)
- A. Mosley (UK)
- J. M. Pasachoff (USA)
- J.-C. Pecker (France)
- S. J. Rabin (USA)
- B. Stephenson (USA)
- J. Włodarczyk (Poland)
- G. Wolfschmidt (Germany)

*T. Mahoney*

## ☞ Transit of Venus Working Group, triennial report 2006-2009

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The previous Transits of Venus Working Group reports #1-#4 were published in the ICHA Newsletters 4 (2002), 5 (2003), 6 (2004) and 7 (2005), plus a brief

announcement on the 2006 Prague meeting (ICHA 8, 2006). A triennial report (#5), covering the time mid-2003 to mid-2006, was published by Steven J. Dick in the *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, Vol. 9, p. 205 (2006). The present report #6, covering the time up to mid-2009, has been prepared for a presentation at the IAU General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, August 2009. It was published in the *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, Vol. 12, p. 254, and appears in slightly modified form, in this ICHA Newsletter.

## 2. MEMBERS OF THE TRANSITS OF VENUS WORKING GROUP

The members of the Transits of Venus Working Group for the triennium 2009–12 are:

Hilmar Duerbeck (Germany) [Chair]  
Steven Dick (USA)  
Robert van Gent (Netherlands)  
David Hughes (UK)  
Willie Koorts (South Africa)  
Wayne Orchiston (Australia)  
Luisa Pigatto (Italy)

In 2008, Steve Dick handed over the task to chair the working group to the undersigned. As may be expected, activities between the transits of 2004 and 2012 are presently at a low level, and no obvious events for the 2012 transit are presently known.

## 3. PUBLICATIONS IN THE PAST TRIENNIUM

A listing of publications that have appeared since 2006, with some additional references, is given in section 5. A web bibliography (with links to original publications) is kept more or less up-to-date by R. van Gent (see section 4), and another one, covering modern books and pamphlets up to the time of the 2004 transit, was given by Duerbeck (2004).

## 4. WEB LINKS

Websites dedicated to historical Venus transits are:

Robert van Gent's *Transit of Venus bibliography*:

<http://www.phys.uu.nl/~vgent/venus/venustransitbib.htm> (see section 2).

Steven van Roode's *Historical observations of the transit of Venus* (with reports, photos and engravings, coordinates, maps of sites of the 17th to 19th century observers, as well as photos of commemorative plaques):

<http://www.transitofvenus.nl/history.html>

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Any relevant information on past or future activities is gratefully acknowledged (mail to: [hduerbec@vub.ac.be](mailto:hduerbec@vub.ac.be))

*Hilmar W. Duerbeck (Chairman)*

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#### **D. Contributions of the IAU C46 for proving the role of history of astronomy in education**

During the IYA2009 a lot of meetings were dedicated to the history of astronomy, education included. All of them had the support of the IAU Commission 46 "Astronomy Education and Development" I was the president (2006-2009).

We celebrated in 2009 four centuries since Galileo directed a telescope for the first time to the sky, when we recall the line of astronomy since its beginnings. There are chapters in history very well known throughout the world, just as there are also very many which have been forgotten or which are totally unknown because of the political or geographical zone they belong to.

It is important that the young generation should know that the present discoveries of the universe are not only the fruits of top technologies but also the corollary of the observations and researches carried out throughout the globe for millennia. Thus, the young people will be able to understand better the efforts of humanity throughout time, to know better the progress registered in their own country and to be more careful with the conservation of the cultural patrimony in general and of the astronomical one in particular because the ignorance of these facts leads not only to destruction, but also to the alteration of future humanist thinking. The "internet" generation must be trained to use the computers both for their own researches and for the capitalization and storage of the information concerning the world astronomical past.

All of them are sustaining the important role of the knowledge of the past for the education.

We could mention a lot of scientific meeting having such topics:

The Special Session 4 “Astronomy Education between Past and Future” during the IAU GA XXVII (Rio de Janeiro, 6, 7 and 10 August 2009). One of its objectives was Teaching and education in astronomy. My invited talk had a challenge titre: “Astronomy without astronomical education?”

During an other special session 5 “Accelerating the Rate of Astronomical Discovery” of the same IAU GA, my talk was about the role of the « Astronomy heritage for education »

In Venice, during the IAU meeting “Astronomy and its Instruments Before and After Galileo”, 8 September – 3 October 2009, my talk concerned the “Astronomy education today”.

Finally, during Comenius course for training teachers, Madrid, November 2009, I had a talk about the “Astronomy Heritage an Important Tool for Education”.

*Magda Stavinschi*  
*Retired President of the IAU Commission 46*  
*“Astronomy Education and Development”*

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## **E. Recent exhibitions on Galileo in Italy**

### **★ Galileo's Telescope: The Instrument that Changed the World**

(curator: Giorgio Strano), Touring exhibition

(<http://brunelleschi.imss.fi.it/telescopiogalileo/index.html>)

Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza, Florence, 4 Mar -31 Dec 2008

Palazzo Incontro, Rome, 31 Oct 2009 – 6 Jan 2010

Beijing Planetarium, Beijing, 15 Oct 2008 – 10 Jan 2009

Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, 4 Apr – 7 Sept 2009 (within the exhibition “Galileo, the Medici and the Age of Astronomy” curators: F. Camerota, M.

Miniati, G. Strano)

Nobel Museum, Stockholm, 10 Oct 2009 – 17 Jan 2010

In 1609, Galileo Galilei gave the universe a new physiognomy. The telescope allowed him to confirm the revolutionary theories of Nicolaus Copernicus: the Earth was not stationary at the centre of the universe, but it rotates around itself and revolves around the Sun. It was the first step towards a new astronomy and vision of the world.

400 years later, the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza has produced an exhibition devoted to Galileo's telescope and the observations he made with it. "Galileo's Telescope" has opened the series of events celebrating Galileo's celestial discoveries in 2009.

Following the shows held in Florence, Beijing and Philadelphia, the exhibition "Galileo's Telescope" was then hosted by Palazzo Incontro in Rome and by the Nobel Museum of Stockholm. One of the two surviving original telescopes of Galileo, both property of the Institute and Museum of the History of Science, has been exceptionally displayed in Stockholm.

Conceived by the IMSS in collaboration with important research institutions (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Istituto Nazionale di Ottica Applicata, Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory and Stazione Sperimentale del Vetro di Murano), the exhibition has been made possible thanks to the support of the Ministry of Education, Universities, and Research and the generous contribution of Officine Panerai.

*Giorgio Strano*

**★ Galileo: Images of the Universe from Antiquity to the Telescope**

(curator: Paolo Galluzzi), Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, 13 Mar – 30 Aug 2009  
(<http://www.galileofirenze.it/>)

The exhibition, conceived and curated by Paolo Galluzzi, director of the Institute and Museum of the History of Science, focused on the global and transversal dimensions of cosmology, highlights the complex relationship that cosmology has established through the ages with other aspects of human thought, as well as answers the questions that astronomy has provided to mankind's hopes, fears, and practical needs.

Admiring objects of great beauty, many of which are one of a kind, such as archaeological finds from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Roma as well as Medieval and Renaissance instruments, paintings and relics one can take a journey through space and time, exploring the science of the heavens and the birth of astronomy.

The exhibition was divided into the following eight sections: "The dawn of astronomy: Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Biblical Cosmos", "The cosmos becomes a sphere", "The geometry of the cosmos", "The skies of Islam", "Evangelization of the cosmos", "The Renaissance of Astronomy", "Galileo: The cosmos through the telescope" and "From Galileo to Newton".

*Giorgio Strano*

**★ Galileo, Venice and the Moon**

(curator: Luisa Pigatto), Touring Exhibition

Isola di San Servolo, Venice, 28 Sep – 18 Oct 2009

Ufficio UNESCO, Palazzo Zorzi, Venice, 22 Oct – 26 Nov 2009

Palazzo del Turismo Millepini, Asiago, 5 Dec 2009 – 30 Jan 2010

Palazzo Bonaguro, Bassano del Grappa, 6 Feb – 5 Apr 2010

The event has been held within the frame of the Internal Year of Astronomy and organised with the collaboration of the Vatican Museums, the National Maritime

Museum–London, the State Archive of Venice, the University Library of Padova, the San Servolo Service, the UNESCO Office in Venice and the Asiago Municipality.

This traveling exhibition (San Servolo, Venice, Asiago) was inaugurated on the occasion of the international Symposium "[Astronomy and its instruments before & after Galileo](#)" (L'Astronomia e i suoi strumenti prima e dopo Galileo) which took place from 28 September to 3 October 2009 on the Island of San Servolo.

Four hundred years ago, in autumn 1609, Galileo raised his spyglass to the night sky: among all the stars, he first observed the Moon discovering that it was covered with “mountain chains and deep valleys”. This extraordinary discovery gave rise to other sensational astronomical discoveries which demonstrated to the human eye a new universe never seen and imagined before. This happened between Padova and Venice, mainly in Venice where Galileo used to go frequently to visit the famous Arsenal – the very place where he learned so much about mechanical experiences - to meet his Venetian friends at Andrea Morosini’s house, to hear news which foreign merchants brought from around the world at the “Golden Ship” shop in ‘Merceria’, to meet the famous consultor in iure of the Republic, the Servite friar Paolo Sarpi, a great expert in all scientific disciplines who urged him to construct the spyglass. Here the New Astronomy – the telescopic astronomy - was born, a true scientific revolution started up. In this exhibition, the Moon is an exemplary witness of this revolution: by Galileo, lunar cartography developed, telescopes improved, the theory of lunar motion was perfected. By the invention of photography, great photographic atlases started to be printed, an accurate topography of Moon’s visible face was made which gave man the possibility to step on lunar ground forty years ago.

Sections of the exhibition: Galileo and Venice, Galileo’s Moon, Lunar maps in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Lunar maps and long telescopes, Photographs of the Moon, Remembering Galileo.

The catalogue is available: L. Pigatto (ed.), *Galileo, Venice and the Moon*, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova, Padova, 2009.

*Luisa Pigatto*

### ★ **The future of Galileo**

(curators: Giulio Peruzzi, Sofia Talas), Centro Culturale Altilate,  
Padova, 28 febbraio - 30 giugno 2009 (<http://www.ilfuturodigalileo.it/>)

The exhibition proposed an itinerary from Galileo's works up to the current frontiers of science. Historical and modern scientific instruments were displayed, illustrated by multimedia simulations, video films and interactive experiments. The exhibition was divided into several sections, each one presenting a scientific field connected to Galileo’s work. After an introduction on “*science before Galileo*”, the first section focused on telescopes, “*From Galileo’s telescope to the telescopes of today and tomorrow*”. The following sections then dealt with “*Motion from Galileo to Einstein*”, “*The science of materials: from Galileo to nanotechnologies*”, “*From the seventeenth-century vacuum to the quantum vacuum*”, “*Light from Galileo to the*

*present day: a window on the cosmos*”, “*From Galileo’s microscope to particle accelerators*”. Finally, the epilogue of the exhibition (“*Galileo’s dream? Microscope meets telescope: from particles to the mysteries of the cosmos*”) presented modern cosmology and the history of our universe, with a spectacular presentation of the Big Bang theory.

*Sofia Talas*

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## **F. Astrum 2009 and the Italian astronomical heritage**

In the field of astronomy, Italy possesses a historic heritage unique the world over as regards number and value of the collections. Much of this heritage consisting of buildings, instruments, books and archival documents is preserved in various observatories all over the national territory. Over the years some fine collections have been added to the materials acquired by the observatories during their research activity; one of these is the Museo Astronomico e Copernicano collection, comprising a splendid group of pre-Galilean instruments.

In the last twenty years the Italian observatories have focussed special attention on their historic collections, implementing programs for inventorying, cataloguing and restoring the instruments. Over the years this work, initially stemming from the commitment of a few individuals, has developed into a growing concern for protecting and promoting historic materials from the National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF), embodying the Italian Observatories.

For 2009, INAF, in collaboration with the Vatican Observatory, has organized an exhibition to confer visibility on this precious heritage, often unknown to the public at large. The collaboration with the Vatican institutions has been especially significant in view of the Papal observatories’ past contribution to the development of astronomy in Italy, and the fact that much of their historic materials are now owned by the INAF.

The exhibition, entitled *Astrum 2009- Astronomy and Instruments. The Italian Heritage 400 hundred years after Galileo*, has been held in Rome, at the Vatican Museums, from 16 October 2009 to 16 January 2010. It can be considered the first exhibition of the Italian astronomical heritage, especially intended to arouse awareness of the precious nature of the historic heritage found in the astronomical observatories.

Seventy-five percent of the objects exhibited at *Astrum 2009* were belonging to the INAF collections. Nine out of twelve observatories were represented, the main contributors being the Rome Observatory and that of Milan-Brera, which together own over 40% of the pieces exhibited. The Vatican Observatory and the Vatican Museums have contributed around 12% of the materials; the remaining 13% consists of loans of special historical importance (Galileo’s manuscript of the *Sidereus Nuncius* was by far the most precious).

During the three-months opening, *AStrum 2009* has been visited by around 11,000 visitors, who have appreciated the value and the variety of the materials on display, the richness of the contents, the beautiful setting.

A catalogue has been published and is available also in English: Chinnici I. (ed.), *AStrum 2009: Astronomy and Instruments. Italian heritage four hundred years after Galileo*, Edizioni Musei Vaticani, Sillabe, Vatican City, 2009, pp. 240.

I. Chinnici

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## F. Journals and Publications

### ✓ **Acta Historica Astronomiae**

This series of history of astronomy books, published by Verlag Harri Deutsch in Frankfurt am Main, started in 1998. Descriptions of the first volumes of the series was given in the IAU Comm. 41 Newsletters 2 and 6, where the titles of the first 17 volumes were listed. Since then, the following titles appeared (if not indicated otherwise, the texts are in German):

Vol. 18: Dick, W.R., Hamel, J. (eds.): *Beiträge zur Astronomiegeschichte (Band 6)*. 238 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1717-8

Vol. 19: Granada, M.A., Hamel, J., von Mackensen, L.: *Christoph Rothmanns Handbuch der Astronomie von 1589. Kommentierte Edition der Handschrift Christoph Rothmanns "Observatorium stellarum liber primus"*, Kassel 1589. 231 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1718-5

An edition of Christoph Rothmann's text, dealing with instrumentation, the heliocentric world system, and the making of the Kassel star catalog, with a commentary.

Vol. 20: Utzt, S.: *Astronomie und Anschaulichkeit. Die Bilder der populären Astronomie des 19. Jahrhunderts*. 112 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1730-7

An analysis of popular astronomical books of the 19th century and their illustrations.

Vol. 21: Rothenberg, E., Fürst, D. (eds.): *Wege der Erkenntnis. Festschrift für Dieter B. Herrmann zum 65. Geburtstag*. 242 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1744-4

A festschrift honoring Dieter B. Herrmann on the occasion of his 65th birthday, dealing with various aspects of the history of astronomy.

Vol. 22: Gaab, H., Leich, P., Löffladt, G. (eds.): *Johann Christoph Sturm (1635-1703)*. 348 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1746-8

A collection of papers honoring the 300th anniversary of the death of the mathematician, physicist and natural philosopher Johann Christoph Sturm.

Vol. 23: Dick, W.R., Hamel, J. (eds.): *Beiträge zur Astronomiegeschichte (Band 7)*. 304 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1747-5

Vol. 24: Balasz, L.J., Brosche, P., Duerbeck, H., Zsoldos, E.: The European Scientist. Symposium on the era and work of Franz Xaver von Zach (1754-1832). 241 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1748-2

A collection of papers on the life and works of Franz Xaver von Zach and some of his contemporaries. In English.

Vol. 25: Wittmann, A.D., Wolfschmidt, G., Duerbeck, H.W. (eds): Development of Solar Research. 309 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1755-0

A collection of papers on the history of solar astronomy and astrophysics; most contributions are in English.

Vol. 26: Brüggenthies, W., Dick, W.R.: Biographischer Index der Astronomie / Biographical Index of Astronomy. 481 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1769-7

A listing of the life dates of more than 16,000 astronomers and related scientists, with references to original sources [German/English].

Vol. 27: Duerbeck, H.W., Dick, W.R. (eds.): Einsteins Kosmos. Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der Kosmologie, Relativitätstheorie und zu Einsteins Wirken und Nachwirken. 313 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1770-3

A collection of articles honoring Einstein's achievements in science and the humanities, and commemorating some of his colleagues.

Vol. 28: Dick, W.R., Hamel, J.: Beiträge zur Astronomiegeschichte (Band 8). 253 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1771-0

Vol. 29: Langkavel, A.: Auf Spurensuche in Europa. Denkmäler, Gedenktafeln und Gräber bekannter und unbekannter Astronomen. 375 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1791-8

An illustrated guide to 229 monuments, memorials and graves of astronomers in Europe.

Vol. 30. Schwemin, F.: Der Berliner Astronom. Leben und Werk von Johann Elert Bode (1747-1826). 198 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1796-3

A biography of the Berlin astronomer Johann Elert Bode, including a selection of letters and a bibliography.

Vol. 31: Seiler, M.P.: Kommandosache "Sonnengott". Geschichte der deutschen Sonnenforschung im Dritten Reich und unter alliierter Besatzung. 246 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1797-0

The history of solar research in Germany during Nazi times and thereafter, focussing on the activities of K.O. Kiepenheuer.

Vol. 32: Staubermann, K.: Astronomers at work. A study of the replicability of 19th century astronomical practice. 160 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1810-6

The book presents a detailed analysis of some astronomical instruments designed in the 19th century: Carl Steinheil's astronomical drawing-board, Karl Friedrich Zöllner's astro-photometer, and Oswald Lohse's astro-camera. In English.

Vol. 33: Hamel, J., Keil, I. (eds.): Der Meister und die Fernrohre. Das Wechselspiel zwischen Astronomie und Optik in der Geschichte. 480 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1804-5  
A festschrift honoring Rolf Riekher on the occasion of his 85th birthday, including papers on historical telescopes and astronomical history, partly in English.

Vol. 34: Hamel, J.: Inventar der historischen Sonnenuhren in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. 205 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1806-9  
An inventory of 188 historical sundials in the German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Vol. 35: Exler, S.: Literatur und Wissenschaft. Josef Johann von Littrow und Rudolf Kippenhahn im Vergleich. 108 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1821-2  
This study analyzes the structure and content of popular astronomical books of the 19th and 20th centuries – Littrow's *Wunder des Himmels* and Kippenhahn's books.

Vol. 36: Dick, W.R., Duerbeck, H.W., Hamel, J. (eds.): Beiträge zur Astronomiegeschichte (Band 9). 317 p., ISBN 978-3-8171-1831-1

More information on the contents and ordering possibilities can be obtained from the editors of the series (W.R. Dick, [wdick@astrohist.org](mailto:wdick@astrohist.org), H.W. Duerbeck, [hilmar@uni-muenster.de](mailto:hilmar@uni-muenster.de), and J. Hamel, [juergenhamel@t-online.de](mailto:juergenhamel@t-online.de)). See also the publisher's webpage <http://www.harri-deutsch.de/verlag/reihen/aha.htm>  
Previews of most volumes are available at Google Book Search (<http://books.google.com/>).

*Hilmar W. Duerbeck*

### **Books 2007/2009**

- **Bucciantini, M.; Camerota M.; Roux S.**(eds.) 2007. Mechanics and Cosmology in the Medieval and Early Modern Period. *Biblioteca di Nuncius, Studi e Testi* 64, pp. 210.
- **Chinnici, I.** 2008. L'eclisse totale di sole del 1870 in Sicilia. *Lettere di Pietro Tacchini a Gaetano Cacciato*, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Palermo, Palermo, pp. 160.
- **Chinnici, I.** (ed.), 2009. *ASTrum 2009: Astronomy and Instruments. Italian heritage four hundred years after Galileo*, Edizioni Musei Vaticani/Sillabe, Vatican City, pp. 240.
- **Dumont, S.** 2007. *Un astronome des lumières: Jérôme Lalande*, Vuibert/Observatoire de Paris, Paris, pp. 359.
- **Dumont, S.; Pecker, J.-C.** 2008. *Lettres à Madame du Pierry et au juge Honoré Flaugergues*, Librairie Philosophique J. Vrin, Paris, pp. 272.
- **Hoskin M.**, 2007. *The Herschels of Hanover*, Science History Publications, Cambridge, pp. 182.
- **Lamy, J.** (ed.) 2008. *La Carte du Ciel*, EDP Science, pp. 250.

## G. News

### ⚡ **National Radio Astronomy Observatory Archives**

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory Archives actively seeks out, collects, organizes, and preserves institutional records, personal papers, and oral histories of enduring value which document NRAO's historical development, institutional history, instrument construction, and ongoing activities, including its participation in multi-institutional collaborations. As the national facility for radio astronomy, the Archives also includes materials on the history and development of radio astronomy in the United States, particularly if such materials are in danger of being lost or discarded by other institutions or individuals. The Archives were started in spring of 2003, and are located at the NRAO offices in Charlottesville, VA.

In addition to NRAO's institutional records and the papers of some current and past NRAO staff, the Archives currently includes the papers of Grote Reber and John D. Kraus, Ronald N. Bracewell's radio astronomy papers, and Marshall H. Cohen's papers on development of US VLBI, as well as Web resources on Nan Dieter Conklin, H.I. (Doc) Ewen, and early radio astronomy courses. Access to collection descriptions, finding aids, and the Archives online catalog, as well as contact information for the Archivist, is through the NRAO Archives Web page, <http://www.nrao.edu/archives/>

*Ellen Bouton (NRAO Archivist) and Ken Kellermann*

### ⚡ **The Seventh International Conference on Oriental Astronomy (ICOA-7)**

“Mapping the Oriental Sky”

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Mitaka,  
Tokyo (Japan), September 6-10, 2010

The ICOA is an international conference on history of astronomy regarding the oriental region and has been held triennially since 1993. Five well-organized proceedings have already been published for the past meetings. The ICOA-7 topics cover wide disciplines, from archaeoastronomy to history of astrophysics.

- Special Events

- (1) NAOJ Campus tour of historic astronomical instruments
- (2) One-day bus excursion to Nobeyama & Usuda radio observatories and Suwa-city clock museum

- Scientific Organizing Committee:

Tsuko Nakamura (Chair, Japan), Il-Seong Nha (Korea), F. Richard Stephenson (UK), Wayne Orchiston (Australia), Richard Strom (Netherlands), Boonrucksar Soonthornthum (Thailand), Bambang Hidayat (Indonesia), Suzanne Débarbat (France), Luisa Pigatto (Italy), S.M. Razaullah Ansari (India), Mayank Vahia (India),

Shukhrat Ehgamberdiev (Uzbekistan), Ciyuan Liu (China), Yunli Shi (China), Shigeru Jochi (Taiwan), Yukio Ôhashi (Japan), Mitsuru Sôma (Japan)

- Local Organizing Committee:

Mitsuru Sôma (Chair, NAOJ), Fumi Yoshida (NAOJ), ...& NAOJ staff

- ICOA-7 Website:

<http://optik2.mtk.nao.ac.jp/~somamt/ICOA-website/ICOA-7.html>

- Contact: Mitsuru.Soma@nao.ac.jp

*Mitsuru Sôma*

### /// **The “Oxford IX” International Symposium on Archaeoastronomy**

“Archaeoastronomy and Ethnoastronomy: Building Bridges between Cultures”

Lima (Peru), January 5-9, 2011

The “Oxford” symposia are the foremost international conferences in the interdisciplinary field of archaeoastronomy, attracting leading researchers in fields such as astronomy, anthropology, archaeology, history, museum studies, surveying, statistics, and the history of religions as well as the history of science and astronomy. The Oxford symposia have been held at approximately four-year intervals since 1981 in countries such as the UK, Spain, Bulgaria, Lithuania, the USA and Mexico, and are supported by the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC). This will be the first time that one has been held in South America, and the “Local” Organising Committee includes representatives from Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

The theme of Oxford IX is “Archaeoastronomy and Ethnoastronomy: Building Bridges between Cultures” and will focus upon topics such as methodological and theoretical issues in cultural astronomy, ethnographic and historical approaches, regional syntheses, and cultural astronomy as a tool for breaking down barriers in society.

The Scientific Organising Committee for Oxford IX includes internationally renowned specialists from a variety of academic disciplines, based in a variety of countries from all five continents.

Oxford IX will be held in Lima from Jan 5 to Jan 9, 2011. There will be a half-day excursion to the archaeological site of Puruchuco, a major Inca ceremonial centre, and a post-conference excursion to sites in the Casma area of northern Peru, including the now-famous Chankillo, whose thirteen towers have been hailed as a solar “observatory”. The main conference will be followed by a regional meeting including tutorials and workshops, to be held in the vicinity of Cusco starting on Jan 13.

Invited keynote speakers will include Gary Urton, Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Pre-Columbian Studies at Harvard University, who is well known for his work on the Andean knotted string devices known as khipu, and George Miley, IAU Vice

President for Education and Development, who is spearheading the IAU's initiative to use astronomy to stimulate sustainable development in the developing world.

Details of the conference and a call for papers will be issued shortly on the ISAAC website <http://www.archaeoastronomy.org/>.

*Clive Ruggles*

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## H. ICHA Member News

*Brenda G. Corbin, ICHA OC, compiler*  
[brenda.corbin@verizon.net](mailto:brenda.corbin@verizon.net)

**Steven J. Dick**, Past President of Commission 41, retired as NASA Chief Historian on August 2. He had served as Chief Historian since 2003, and worked at the U. S. Naval Observatory as an astronomer and historian for 24 years prior to coming to NASA. The IAU Minor Planet Center has named minor planet 6544 Stevendick in his honor. Thomas Corbin and Brenda Corbin, both formerly at the U.S. Naval Observatory, made the presentation during the retirement ceremony at NASA Headquarters July 23. Steve plans to continue research and writing in retirement.

**Harry Nussbaumer**, Professor emeritus at the Institute for Astronomy at ETH Zurich has recently published the following book with Lydia Bieri (Harvard University): *Discovering the Expanding Universe* (Cambridge Univ. Press 2009, ISBN 978-0-521-51484-2, 244 p). The book describes the beginning of modern cosmology with Einstein's theoretical contribution of 1917, through Lemaitre's discovery of the expanding universe in 1927 and his suggestion of a big bang origin, to Hubble's contribution of 1929, and Einstein's conversion to the expanding universe in 1931. As a prelude, the book traces the evolution of some of the notions of modern cosmology from the late Middle Ages up to the final concept of galaxies in 1925.

<http://www.cambridge.org/uk/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521514842>

**Woodruff T. Sullivan, III** (Univ. of Washington, USA) has just published *Cosmic Noise: A History of Early Radio Astronomy* (Cambridge Univ. Press 2009, ISBN-13: 9780521765244, 132 illus., 574 p). It covers in great detail the pre-1954 era around the world from an intellectual, technical, and social point of view. He reports that this is the fruition of a 38-year long project and suggests that one nonlinear way to get a feel for the book is to continually inspect random pages brought up by Amazon's "Surprise me" option. One can also search for a full listing of the occurrences of any terms of interest.

<http://www.cambridge.org/uk/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521765244>

He has also begun a website devoted to the early history of radio astronomy:

<http://www.astro.washington.edu/users/woody/hra.html> . He requests that you check it out for various information and please send him any material that you think

would be good to post, or links that he has not yet listed. This site also includes the annotated Table of Contents and a portion of the References List of *Cosmic Noise*.

[http://www.amazon.com/Cosmic-Noise-History-Early-Astronomy/dp/0521765242/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1258437366&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Cosmic-Noise-History-Early-Astronomy/dp/0521765242/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1258437366&sr=1-1)

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