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

A. Archaeoastronomy and Ethnoastronomy: Building Bridges between Cultures - IAU Symposium S278 Report

IAU Symposium S278, entitled “Archeoastronomy and Ethnoastronomy: Building Bridges between Cultures”, took place in Lima, Peru, on January 5–14, 2011. This was also an “Oxford” Symposium on Archeoastronomy, the ninth in what is unarguably the foremost series of international conferences on the topic. Meetings in the series have been held at roughly four-yearly intervals since the time when
Michael Hoskin, the then-Commission 41 President, organised the first “Oxford” back in 1981.

Several factors made the meeting significant from the IAU’s perspective. Not the least of these was that it was the first ever IAU Symposium explicitly concerning this highly interdisciplinary topic, one of interest not only to astronomers but also to archaeologists, historians, anthropologists, architects, art historians, historians of religions and many others. As I pointed out in my opening address, archaeoastronomy—like archaeology itself—is a science that asks social questions. Its practitioners come from a wide range of academic disciplines and this series of conferences is the foremost forum of interchange between them.

As Division XII President Françoise Genova points out, two of the six meetings selected as IAU symposia in 2011—IAU S278 itself and one concerned with Time Domain Astronomy—concern topics of wider concern than the particular areas of scientific specialization that normally characterize IAU symposia. The topic of IAU S278 itself links in quite strongly with the activities of several of our partner Commissions within Division XII, in particular C46 Astronomy Education and Development, C55 Communicating Astronomy with the Public, and even C50 Protection of Existing and Potential Observatory Sites (particularly in relation to Dark Sky issues).

This is important because it reflects the IAU’s concerns with the many supporting activities that help to sustain astronomy as a whole—including infrastructural issues such as documentation, fundamental data and reference systems, as well as topics such as education, dissemination, and outreach. It also vindicates the decision to create in 2003 a Special Division to represent such “Union-Wide Activities” at the highest level within the IAU. It was clearly appropriate to assign the History of Astronomy to this Division and we in the Commission are delighted that this has helped to give a higher profile to the activities of Historians of Astronomy within the IAU.

One of the most important aspects of the conference was encapsulated in the “Building Bridges” subtitle and the strong link with the IAU’s new decadal strategic plan, “Astronomy for the Developing World”. In his opening address IAU Vice-President George Miley\(^1\) described the strategic plan as an ambitious blueprint to mobilize talented astronomers, engineers and teachers around the world in the service of developing countries. Against a backdrop of a recent picture of the Earth taken from the neighbourhood of Saturn by the Cassini probe, he pointed out how the immensity and beauty of the Universe can provide humankind with a unique perspective on our world that can stimulate understanding between cultures, tolerance and world citizenship. An important ingredient of the plan is to give very young disadvantaged children a sense of perspective and inspiration.

Archaeoastronomy and ethnoastronomy (often referred to together as ‘cultural astronomy’) concern themselves with beliefs and practices relating to the sky across human cultures and across time, from prehistory through to the indigenous present.

\(^1\) Sadly, George himself had to withdraw from the conference for health reasons, and his words were conveyed by Clive Ruggles.
The focus thus reaches far beyond just the history of modern scientific astronomy, reflecting instead a much broader interest in the many different ways in which human communities perceive the cosmos they are situated within. Understanding engenders respect and exchange, so that opening people’s minds to the wonders of modern astronomy is often achieved far better if the ‘Western’ astronomers doing the disseminating have a better understanding of (and respect for) the context of indigenous knowledge and beliefs and practices within which they are working. Inspiration is a two-way process.

From the perspective of archaeoastronomy itself, an important achievement of Oxford IX was in bringing an “Oxford” archaeoastronomy symposium to South America for the first time. The current membership profile of the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC), the foremost professional body representing archaeoastronomy and ethnoastronomy, shows fewer than 7% of its membership to be resident in South America, as opposed to over 25% in Europe and over 50% in the USA and Canada. The meeting provided a unique opportunity to strengthen the community of scholars practicing ethno- and archaeoastronomy in South America and to forge stronger links between them and the wider community of researchers with overlapping interests.

In order to balance global participation and local engagement, one and a half days of the four-and-a-half-day main conference (Jan 5–9) were devoted to South American topics, but this was followed by a three-day Regional Meeting (Jan 12–14), a new development at this “Oxford”, devoted exclusively to Latin America. Another new feature was the inclusion of two contributed thematic half-day sessions, one on “The 2012 phenomenon: Maya calendar, astronomy, and apocalypticism in the worlds of scholarship and global popular culture”, organized by John Carlson and Mark van Stone, and one on “The archaeoastronomy of the Casma Valley, Peru”, organized by Robert Benfer. Another new feature was ‘introductory workshops’, held at the Regional Meeting and aimed at local young scholars and students. The themes of the four workshops were: (1) Principles of Cultural Astronomy, (2) Field and laboratory techniques, and (3) South American cultural astronomy, led by Clive Ruggles, Kim Malville and Stanislaw Iwaniszewski; and Cultural astronomy, film and reporters, led by Holly Wissler.

One of the key characteristics of the Oxford conferences is that they never have parallel sessions, so that all the audience has the opportunity to hear all the talks by the full range of specialists, encountering may disciplinary approaches very different from their own and with which they do not normally come into direct contact. Largely speaking, sessions were organised geographically rather than thematically, on the assumption that many talks touched upon a variety of wider themes and issues. As ever, and issues of field methodology and social theory leading to viable interpretations were to the fore.

The two parts of the conference attracted a total of 108 participants including 9 young Peruvian scholars and students awarded scholarships by one of the local organisers, the Anglo-Peruvian Cultural Association (ACPB). The remainder were drawn from numerous countries around the world including Australia, Austria,
Canada, the Czech republic, Egypt, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Romania, Spain, Thailand, the UK and the USA, as well as eight South American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru. Other authors who were prevented from attending the conference in person owing, for example, to visa difficulties, but nonetheless provided poster papers and/or will provide written versions of their papers for the Proceedings, include contributors from Azerbaijan, China, Israel, and The Philippines.

Clive Ruggles (UK) presented an opening keynote speech entitled “Pushing back the frontiers or still running around the same circles? ‘Interpretative archaeoastronomy’ thirty years on” and the following presented invited keynote speeches:

- Stephen McCluskey (USA): The two cultures of archaeoastronomy and the history of science
- Johanna Broda (Mexico): Offerings and spatio-temporal order in Mesoamerica: indigenous mathematics and archaeoastronomy in comparative perspective
- Edmundo Edwards (Easter Island): The Polynesian ritual cycle of activities and their archaeological markers in Eastern Polynesia
- Alejandro López (Argentina): Ethnoastronomy as an academic field: the outline of a South American programme
- Ricardo Moyano (Chile): Sub-tropical astronomy in the southern Andes
- John Steele (USA): Astronomy and culture in Late Babylonian Uruk
- Gary Urton (USA): What can the study of astronomy contribute to anthropology? An Andean perspective.

Unfortunately, visa problems prevented Professor Sun Xiaochun from attending the conference and presenting his keynote speech on “Archaeoastronomy in China and a study of the Taosi prehistoric observatory”, but we hope the have a written version for the Proceedings.

The entire conference programme can be accessed on the conference website www.archaeoastronomy.org. The proceedings will be published later this year by Cambridge University Press in the IAU Symposium series, with an additional publication, if merited, published by the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP).

There was a very full social programme, including receptions by the ACPB, PUCP and the Instituto Peruano de Astronomía (IPA) and a public lecture by Gary Urton organised by the PUCP. The ACPB organised a folk event, a conference banquet in one of Lima’s most attractive restaurants (overlooked by an archaeological site), and a mid-conference excursion to the Inca site of Puruchuco, where Gary Urton provide an expert commentary on the khipu (knotted-cord strings) held in the museum there. Between the main conference and the Regional Meeting was a two-day excursion to the north of Peru to visit (among other sites) the now-famous thirteen towers of Chankillo, led by Ivan Ghezzi and Clive Ruggles, and a four-day
post-conference tour to Cusco and nearby Inca sites led by Kim Malville and Ivan Ghezzi.

The meeting itself was certainly a marked success, and feedback received so far (this is written one week after the end of the conference) has been excellent. This was due in large measure to our wonderful hosts, the ACPB (also known simply as the “Británico”) for the Main Conference and the Catholic University (PUCP) for the Regional Meeting. Various members of the Scientific, Regional and Local Organising Committees also deserve a huge vote of thanks for their work in the preparatory stages. But a number of other individuals deserve very special thanks. These are Ray Norris (Australia), who was responsible in the early stages for liaison with the IAU; Stephen McCluskey (USA), the ISAAC treasurer and most of the time also the conference treasurer; Rüdiger Schultz (Austria), the indefatigable website manager; and Alejandro López (Argentina) and Flávia Lima (Brazil), the website translators. I would like to take this opportunity to express my enormous thanks to all of these people, without whose huge efforts this conference simply could not have taken place as efficiently and effectively, and quite possibly not at all.

The “building bridges” of the title refers to the connections between cultural astronomy and the advancement of modern astronomy in the developing world. We found plenty of ways to identify and explore these connections as the conference proceeded, and I hope that many of these initiatives sparked off at IAU S278/Oxford IX will be followed up and developed in the months and years to come. To finish with George Miley’s words: “Astronomy is a unique tool for development because it combines cutting-edge technology with fundamental science and has deep cultural roots.” IAU S278 has certainly explored some of these roots in a way that should have lasting value.

Clive Ruggles

B. Historical Observatory building to be restored

An attempt has just been launched to save a small observatory of international significance on the West coast of Scotland, to mark its 200th anniversary.

The private observatory built by Sir Thomas Brisbane in the grounds of his ancestral home near the town of Largs in Ayrshire was completed in 1811. It was here that Brisbane pioneered what became the classic layout and precision instruments for modern positional astronomy. The instruments, made to his designs by the pre-eminent instrument maker of his day, Edward Troughton, included the prototype of the mural circle. The fame of this instrument led to the commissioning of larger circles which were central to the work of National Observatories such as Greenwich, The Cape of Good Hope, Edinburgh and Washington.

Brisbane was a distinguished career soldier, who also served in the 1820s as Governor of New South Wales in Australia, and for whom the city of Brisbane is named. He moved his astronomical instruments from Scotland to a new observatory he built near Sydney, and there produced the first modern catalogue of the Southern
stars. On his return to Scotland he constructed one of the earliest purpose-built magnetic observatories.

His first observatory for positional astronomy was thought to have been demolished, but has only recently been identified in dense undergrowth at the site of Brisbane House. The 'Brisbane Observatory Trust' has been set up to rescue and restore this fine building, which is associated with the prominent Scottish architect James Gillespie Graham. Professor John Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, and Professor Ian Robson, Director of the UK Astronomy Technology Centre, are both members of the Trust.

A web-site will be launched soon, but in the meantime more information can be supplied by Dr Allen Simpson, Acting Chairman of the Brisbane Observatory Trust, assc16144@blueyonder.co.uk

Allen Simpson

C. History of Astronomy in India

The tradition of astronomy in India is very deep rooted. Several scholars have unearthed a rich heritage in the form of books, commentaries and other documents. Since this science is shrouded in astrological texts and other forms of expression, it requires great effort to dig out the observational skills and techniques that were being used.
1. *Study of ancient documents for astronomical references*

This includes texts (both in Sanskrit and other languages), stone inscriptions and palm leaf manuscripts. Stone inscriptions are available in plenty all over India; they were engraved to leave a permanent record of the gift and donations made by the kings. A good number of them document the heroic deeds of soldiers and commoners fighting wild animals. In some cases they mark the self immolation of ascetics and war widows. They are dated from 2-3 century BC to as recent as 1800 CE in various languages. They serve as important documents of celestial events. Here an attempt has been made to document the celestial events provided by these inscriptions and verify the actual dates.

It has been possible to establish the dates quite precisely whenever the details like eclipses and solstices are available. In only a couple of cases the planetary positions are also indicated. This provides another avenue for correcting the dates.

With this method we have corrected some dates whenever there was some ambiguity. Further we have also suggested some corrections for the name of the day of the week. In one or two cases neither the eclipse nor the solstice has taken place.

2. *Study of historical monuments for astronomical significance*

Many temples have shown interesting astronomical features incorporated in their architecture. Two examples are Vidyashanakar temple in Sringeri and Gavi Gangadhreshwara temple in Bangalore. Many temples dedicated to the worship of sun are located in and around Bangalore. A detailed study starting from the ancient text Sulbsutras to later dates has been undertaken. This revealed many other functions of the temples apart from religious leadership and as center of learning. Other duties were preparation of calendars, time keeping and maintaining a bureau of standards for time, length, area and weight measurements.

3. *Search for historical astronomy records and instruments*

This aspect is least studied. Ancient manuscripts need to be studied and interpreted. It is also planned to reconstruct the instruments as per the specifications. A frequent reference to Maanasara by various authors gives a clue on the design of such gadgets. In this context some reports preserved in the Royal Society, both at London and Paris may give valuable inputs.

Several private and state owned museums have an extensive collection of gadgets; the exact purpose of some of them has not been understood; therefore it is important to study such small items and correlate their astronomical utilities, if any. Some of the museums are Manjusha, in Dharmasthala, Museum in Sravana Belagola, archeological museums in Dharawad, Chtradurga, Hampi to name a few – all in Karnataka (South India).

4. *Study of astronomical texts: 1874 text on Transit of Venus by C. Raghunathachari*

There are two texts available in the archives of Indian Institute of Astrophysics. One is in Kannada (A South Indian language). I studied this text and compared it
with the English version also available at IIA archives. Book in Kannada is drastically different from the book in English: language is very lucid; there are addresses the local astronomers and references to contemporary scholars and texts; all explanations are simple and meant to be understood by locals; there are predictions of forthcoming occultation and eclipses and description of the contemporary method of observations; it contains some very simple descriptions of definition of types of eclipses and parallaxes, and there Kepler’s laws are explained for the first time in Kannada. The translated version is now ready for publication.

B. S. Shylaja
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D. 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, 6 and 9, where the titles of the first 36 volumes were listed. Since then, the following titles appeared (the texts are mostly in German):

Ten contributions, ranging in scope from Greek chronology to modern cosmology, plus obituaries, short contributions, and book reviews.

An illustrated inventory of the historical instruments of Vienna University Observatory, and a history of the Viennese observatories from 1730 onward, based on lectures given by J. Steinmayr in the early 1930s.

The two parts of this book deal with the history of the Urania-Sternwarte, the oldest popular observatory in Vienna, and with the biography of F.V. Schembor, who was active both in the Urania and University Observatories in Vienna.

Contributions on Kepler, his work and his contemporaries, based on a colloquium held in Weil der Stadt in May 2009.
Contributions on Gottfried Kirch, the first astronomer of the Berlin Academy, and his contemporaries, based on a colloquium held in Berlin-Treptow in March 2010.


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

Hilmar W. Duerbeck

Books 2008/2011

- Pigatto L., Zanini V. (eds.) 2010. Astronomy and its instruments before and after Galileo, CLEUP, pp. 496.

Some research papers by C41/ICHA members - 2009/2010

E. **News**

**Exhibitions on the Antikythera Mechanism**

- June 2010 – March 2011, Museum of Natural Sciences, Herakleion, Crete
- July 2010 – October 2011, Island of Kythera
- November 2010, Institut d’estudis Catalans, in the frame of the 5th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science, Barcelona
- 23 May 2011, Opening of the exhibition at the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers, Paris
- 15 September 2011 – 15 November 2011, L’Embarcadère du Savoir, Liège
- 15 November 2011 – 15 January 2012, Poelläu, Austria

The exhibitions are organized by the History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology Programme [www.hpdst.gr](http://www.hpdst.gr) (Institute for Neohellenic Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation in collaboration with the Science and Education Laboratory, University of Athens), the National Archaeological Museum, the Antikythera Mechanism Research Project and the Association of Ancient Greek Technology Studies. In Paris and Liège the exhibitions will be coorganised by the CNAM and the Embarcadère du Savoir respectively and there theme will be enlarged to more recent planetariums.

The exhibitions are organised in the frame of the Hephaestus project (Sponsored by E.U., FP7, Regpot1-2008).

The first exhibitions in Athens and Herakleion displayed models (from the older one, this of Theophanides to the more recent, those of Michael Wright and the University of Thessaloniki), six videos, an interactive screen, historical publications...
on the Mechanism, many photographs and explanations on the Mechanism and Ancient Greek astronomy and technology, and also an art representation of the Mechanism. On a hemispherical screen were projected two films, “The Antikythera mechanism: decoding an ancient Greek mystery”, by Macmillan Publishers Ltd and mfreeth.com, with animation and footage in Greece by Images First Ltd and «Cosmic Harmony», by Nikos Matsopoulos.

A catalogue has been edited for the exhibitions in Athens and Herakleion: Y. Bitsakis (ed), E. Nicolaidis (scientific coordinator), The Antikythera Mechanism, Militos, Athens, 2009, 36 p. Texts by Mike Edmunds, M. Zafeiropoulos, Y. Bitsakis, E. Nicolaidis, Th. Tassios, A. Tsolakis and Tony Freeth. Specialised catalogues will be edited for the exhibitions at the CNAM, Liège and Poellàu.

Efthymios Nicolaidis

 htmlentities

-XII Universeum Network Meeting: Call for Papers

“Arranging and rearranging: Planning university heritage for the future”
Padua (Italy), University of Padua, May 26-29, 2011

The European Academic Heritage Network UNIVERSEUM (http://www.universeum.it) announces its 12th annual meeting. UNIVERSEUM invites submissions of papers on academic heritage in its broadest sense, tangible and intangible, namely the preservation, study, access and promotion of university collections, museums, archives, libraries, botanical gardens, astronomical observatories, and university buildings of historical, artistic and scientific significance.

The theme of the conference is "Arranging and rearranging: Planning university heritage for the future", though papers on other topics are welcomed too. Graduate students are especially encouraged to attend.

"Arranging and rearranging: Planning university heritage for the future"

How should the academic heritage of universities be organized? There are many models, from the centralized university museum or archive to the dispersed collections kept by departments or individuals. There are many different ways of organizing academic heritage that may or may not fit a particular collection or institution. Visions and objectives of curators, researchers and teachers involved in academic heritage are often quite different from those of university administrators and leadership. For both, in many cases, heritage is intrinsically connected to the question of identity—identity of academic disciplines, identity of local departments, and the identity of the university. Much is at stake, as recent cuts in funding and the reorganization of universities across Europe places many collections at risk.

How can we ensure the preservation, study and interpretation of our academic heritage? How can we organize this heritage in ways that can harmoniously reconcile the needs of contemporary universities with the specificities and needs of academic heritage?
Paper presentations are limited to 20 minutes, including 5 minutes for discussion. The conference language is English. Please send abstracts for paper proposals of no more than 200 words to the email address below **before 15 February 2011**.

Please use abstract template at the conference website [http://www.musei.unipd.it/meeting_universeum2011.html](http://www.musei.unipd.it/meeting_universeum2011.html).

Include a short biography highlighting main research interests (no more than 50 words).

Proposals will be reviewed by the Programme Committee. Speakers will be given notice by 1 March 2011.


For proposals and inquiries, please contact: PaduaMeeting2011@universeum.it

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### XXX Scientific Instrument Symposium

“Instruments and Texts”

Kassel (Germany), Astronomisch-Physikalisches Kabinett, September 19-24, 2011

The 30th Symposium of the Scientific Instrument Commission will take place from September 19-24, 2011 in Kassel (Germany) and will be hosted by the Astronomisch-Physikalisches Kabinett (APK) there.

The main theme of this year’s symposium is “INSTRUMENTS AND TEXTS” though, as usual, papers on other topics relating to scientific instruments will be welcome, space-permitting.

An exciting program of excursions within central Germany is also in the works. Details on the submission of abstracts for proposed papers, fees, travel information, and more will be made available by early February.

A first taste of the collections at the APK and in the surrounding region can be gleaned from an account in the December 2010 issue of the Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society.

*Dr. Karsten Gaulke, Director*

_Astronomisch-Physikalisches Kabinett and Planetarium Museumslandschaft Hessen, Kassel_

*Web: [www.museum-kassel.de](http://www.museum-kassel.de)*
F. **ICH A Member News**

*Brenda G. Corbin, ICHA OC, compiler  
brenda.corbin@verizon.net*

**Petr Hadrava** announces on the occasion of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 and the anniversary of Kepler's "Astronomia nova" (Heidelberg 1609), the National Technical Museum in Prague published a book entitled "Kepler’s Heritage in the Space Age; 400th Anniversary of Astronomia nova". Edited by Alena Hadravova, Terence J. Mahoney and Petr Hadrava, Acta historiae rerum naturalium necnon technicarum, New Series, Vol. 10, Prague, National Technical Museum 2010, 186 pp. + CD-ROM, ISBN 978-80-7037-193-0. The contributors from all over the world deal in this volume with different aspects of Kepler's life and work in sections titled: Kepler’s Astronomia nova; Kepler’s Mathematics; Kepler and Prague; Kepler’s Contemporaries; Kepler’s Heritage. An attached CD-ROM contains: short animations belonging to the articles by H. Ozaki and J. Ross; scan of Kepler's treatise "Mathematici Caesarei Dissertatio"; scan of Kepler's treatise "Astronomia nova aitiologetos" (Heidelberg 1609); PDF version of the book "Kepler’s Heritage in the Space Age".

This publication can be ordered by e-mail: vladimir.makovsky@ntm.cz. For further information and the full table of contents see http://www.asu.cas.cz/~had/kepleher.html

**Dieter B. Herrmann** is the former Director of Archenhold Observatory Berlin, and since 2006 the President of Leibniz Society of Sciences ("Leibniz Sozietät der Wissenschaften zu Berlin"). This Academy with more than 300 members was formerly the Academy of Sciences of the GDR, founded in 1700 by Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. In March 2010 Prof. Dr. Herrmann and colleagues have arranged a colloquium for the 300th anniversary of the death of Gottfried Kirch (1639-1710), the first director of Berlin’s oldest observatory. The papers are published in German. J. Hamel (Ed.), *Gottfried Kirch and the Berlin Astronomy in the 18th Century*, Acta Historica Astronomiae Vol. 41, Frankf./Main 2010, 272 pages.

**Thomas Hockey**, astronomer at the University of Northern Iowa, will co-teach a class on cosmology, beginning with ancient times. This is the first instance that such a team-taught course has been given at the University of Northern Iowa.

**Erik Høg**, Emeritus, associate professor, dr. scient., Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen has been awarded the F.G.W. Struve medal for “his great contribution to development of ground-based and space astrometry”. The commemorative medal is named after F.G.W. Struve, the founder and the first director of the Central Astronomical Observatory in Pulkovo. The award was presented in June 2009 by A. V. Stepanov, Director of the Central Astronomical Observatory of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

This book describes the main stages in the lives, scientific and social activities of famous astronomers making up the Knorre dynasty, who lived and worked from the end of the 18th to the beginning of the 20th century in Russia, Estonia, Ukraine, Germany and France. The book presents to the public the biographies of the Knorre astronomers’ dynasty: Ernst Christoph Knorre, first astronomer-observer at the temporary astronomical observatory of Tartu University; Karl-Friedrich (in Russian Karl Khristoforovich) Knorre, first director of Nikolaev Naval Astronomical Observatory; and Victor Karl (in Russian Karlovich) Knorre – tireless observer of Berlin Observatory, discoverer of small planets. The book reveals to a large public the story of a lesser known dynasty of astronomers who were active at the time when astronomy was developing in Eastern Europe and participated in the creation and operation of state observatories designed for performing astronomical research and geodetic works in order to draw charts and measure the arc of meridians with a view to determine the exact shape of the Earth. We are pleased that the book was prepared in co-authorship and with the active participation of two descendants of Karl-Friedrich von Knorre, Suzanne Héral and Serge Prat. Materials and documents presented in the book contain data from various archives, illustrated with color and black-and-white photographs. The book is intended for scientific workers and all those interested in the history of astronomy at the time of its beginnings and development in Eastern Europe, in particular in one of the oldest observatories in southern Ukraine in the city of Nikolaev.

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