

The Inter-Union Commission for History of Astronomy

F. Richard Stephenson, Alexander Gurshtein, Wayne Orchiston, and Stephen J. Dick

We are very pleased to report the recent formation of the Inter-Union Commission for History of Astronomy (ICHA) by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS). The ICHA is an international body representing the interests of all professional historians of astronomy worldwide. It encourages research by members, facilitates communication between researchers, organizes scientific meetings, undertakes collaborative projects, and publishes a newsletter. The Union will also prepare recommendations for the IAU and the IUHPS, and liaise with other international organisations.

Membership is open to the entire history of astronomy community. Those who are IAU members become full members of the Commission, while those who conduct their research through the IUHPS become associate members. New members (of either kind) are elected to the ICHA at the triennial General Assemblies of the IAU (the next one is in Sydney, Australia, in July 2003).

The ICHA is governed by an Organising Committee (OC) of ten. The inaugural OC, which is based upon the current OC of IAU Commission 41, comprises: President: Prof Richard Stephenson (UK: f.r.stephenson@durham.ac.uk), Vice-President: Prof Alex Gurshtein (Russia: agurshtein@hotmail.com), Secretary: Dr Wayne Orchiston (Australia: wo@aaopp.aao.gov.au), Members: Dr Steven Dick (USA: steve.dick@usno.navy.mil), Dr Wolfgang Dick (Germany: wdick@astrohist.org), Prof Rajesh Kochhar (India: rkochhar2000@yahoo.com), Dr Tsuko Nakamura (Japan: tsuko@cc.nao.ac.jp), Prof Il-Seong Nha (Korea: SLISNHA@chollian.net), Prof Woodruff Sullivan (USA: woody@astro.washington.edu), Prof Brian Warner (South Africa: Warner@physci.uct.ac.za).

A new OC will be elected at the Sydney General Assembly.

Production of ICHA Newsletters is the responsibility of an Editorial Board elected by the ICHA OC. The following inaugural Editorial Board has been formed: Dr Ileana Chinnici (Italy), Professor Alex Gurshtein (Russia), Dr Wayne Orchiston (Australia) and Professor Richard Stephenson. At this stage, our intention is to distribute two newsletters per year, in June and December.

The establishment of a genuine Inter-Union Commission is a major step forward for the history of astronomy community. IAU Commission 41 was founded in 1948, and for decades there was close co-operation between colleagues from this Commission and those associated with the IUHPS. During the 1970s an attempt was made to have C41 formally recognised as a joint

Commission of the two Unions, but this initiative was unsuccessful. However, this did not stop colleagues from collaborating on a number of important joint projects, including the Greenwich Tercentenary Symposium in 1979, the General History of Astronomy volumes (1982), and in more recent years (during the 1990s) the international documentation of astronomical archives.

Even though its status was unchanged, in 1994 the idea somehow took hold that C41 had become „A joint IAU-IUHPS Commission“ (IAU Transactions XXIB, p. 207), and this notion was perpetuated through the 1994 ICSU Yearbook (see p. 104). Once this fiction of a „Joint Commission“ or „Inter-Union Commission“ was established, it was subsequently accepted without question by those associated with the IAU and the IUHPS - including the undersigned!

It was only in late 2000 that the true situation was discovered, and the quest for a genuine Inter-Union Commission became a priority of the C41 OC. This proved a daunting task, and one which involved many months of research, consultation and negotiation, never-ending e-mail exchanges, frequent international telephone calls, and even meetings in Paris. However, all this is now behind us, and under the aegis of the ICHA historians of astronomy worldwide can look forward to an era of unprecedented harmonious co-operation and collaboration.

(Source: The ICHA Newsletter, No. 1, June 2001, p. 2-3; slightly abridged.)

Personalien

Wir gratulieren herzlich zum Geburtstag:

- 31.8.2001 Prof. Dr. Christian de Veigt, Hamburg (65.)
 1.1.2002 Ewald Andres, Roquetas de Mar (70.)
 11.2. StR i.R. Adolph Kunert, Berlin (80.)
 2.4. Dipl.-Phys. Rolf Willach, Tägerwilen (65.)
 29.4. Dipl.-Ing. Helmut Minow, Dortmund (80.)
 13.5. Ing. Rolf Riekher, Berlin (80.)
 28.5. Dr. Wolfgang Kokott, München (65.)

Am 8. Juni 2001 wurde Ing. **Rolf Riekher** während der 102. Tagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für angewandte Optik in Göttingen von der Mitgliederversammlung einstimmig zum Ehrenmitglied gewählt. Herr Riekher, Mitglied unseres Arbeitskreises, ist den Astronomiehistorikern vor allem durch sein Buch *Fernrohre und ihre Meister* bekannt.

Danksagung

Neben den Autoren sei für Informationen gedankt: Volker Bialas, Peter Brosche, Wilhelm Brüggenthies, Hilmar Duerbeck, Ludwig Engelhardt, Menso Folkerts, Peter Habison, Jürgen Hamel, Klaus Hentschel, Klaus-Dieter Herbst, Brigitte Huhn, Günther Oestmann, Karin Reich, Neil Ribe, Rolf Riekher, Theodor Schmidt-Kaler, Wilfried Schröder, Martin Stangl, Christiaan Sterken, Internationale Coronelli-Gesellschaft.

Gedenktage im Jahr 2002

(Fortsetzung aus Nr. 18, S. 5)

Geburtstage

5. Aug. : Abel, Niels Henrik (200.)
 6. Aug. : Arend, Sylvain (100.)
 8. Aug. : Dirac, Paul Adrien Maurice (100.)
 8. Aug. : Roberval, Gilles P. de (400.)
 16. Aug. : Drobisch, Moritz Wilhelm (200.)
 30. Aug. : Bürja, Abel (250.)
 1. Sept. : Brouwer, Dirk (100.)
 8. Sept. : Eder, Richard (100.)
 9. Sept. : Poynting, John Henry (150.)
 11. Sept. : Kaplan, Joseph (100.)
 12. Sept. : Doberck, August William (150.)
 14. Sept. : Domke, Johann Friedrich (200.)
 18. Sept. : Callandreaux, P. J. O. (150.)
 18. Sept. : Legendre, Adrien Marie (250.)
 30. Sept. : Barry, Roger (250.)
 2. Okt. : Ramsay, William (150.)
 6. Okt. : Ricci, Matteo (450.)
 7. Okt. : Köhl, T. H. J. (150.)
 9. Okt. : Conti, Carlo (200.)
 9. Okt. : Fjeltofte, Sigurd (100.)
 10. Okt. : Kery, Franz Borgia (300.)
 18. Okt. : Jordan, E. Pascual W. (100.)
 22. Okt. : Chevalier, R. P. Stanislas le (150.)
 8. Nov. : Lewitzky, Grigory W. (150.)
 20. Nov. : Guericke, Otto von (400.)
 20. Nov. : Werner, Martha Dorothea (100.)
 21. Nov. : Kazimir. ak-Polonskaja, E. (100.)
 22. Nov. : Chvol'son, Orest Danilovi... (150.)
 22. Nov. : Doleřal, Erich (100.)
 22. Nov. : Patry, André (100.)
 10. Dez. : Stöffler, Johannes (550.)
 13. Dez. : Nielsen, Axel Vilfred (100.)
 15. Dez. : Becquerel, Antoine Henri (150.)
 16. Dez. : Baehr, Ulrich (100.)
 16. Dez. : Moiseev, Nikolaj D. (100.)
 18. Dez. : Hristov, Wladimir K. (100.)
 19. Dez. : Michelson, Albert Abraham (150.)

Todestage

26. Mai : Münster, Sebastian (450.)
 21. Juni : Gruithuisen, Franz von P. (150.)
 ? Juli : Foster, Samuel (350.)
 2. Juli : Safarik, Adalbert (100.)
 4. Juli : Faye, Hervé A. E. A. (100.)
 29. Juli : Jones, Thomas (150.)
 10. Aug. : Aepinus, Franz U. Th. (200.)
 18. Aug. : Beaune, Florimont de (350.)
 22. Aug. : Whiston, William (250.)
 25. Sept. : Peucer, Kaspar (400.)
 26. Sept. : Gadolin, Jacob (200.)
 26. Sept. : Vega, Georg von (200.)
 3. Okt. : Chiaramonti, Scipione (350.)
 8. Okt. : Greaves, John (350.)
 9. Okt. : Colby, Thomas (150.)
 17. Okt. : Osiander, Andreas (450.)
 30. Okt. : Hoffmann, Heinrich (350.)
 31. Okt. : Brugnattelli, Gaspare (150.)
 31. Okt. : Schröder, H. L. Hugo (100.)
 4. Nov. : Failla, Jean Charles de la (350.)
 18. Nov. : Ferner, Bengt (200.)
 21. Nov. : Broscius, Johannes (350.)
 3. Dez. : Franz, Xaver (450.)
 11. Dez. : Petavius, Dionysius (350.)
 18. Dez. : Thraen, Anton Karl (100.)
 23. Dez. : Dufour, Charles (100.)

Image credit: The International Astronomical Union /M. Zamani. <http://orlo.uk/xpil3>. The International Astronomical Union. 17 hrs Â· #IAUCommission IAU Commission B1 Computational Astrophysics has released its latest newsletter with information about the upcoming commission election for the business meetings of the next IAU General Assembly. Read it here: <http://ow.ly/jmOe50DyIHE>. See All. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) was founded in 1919. Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education and development, through international cooperation. Its Individual and Junior Members "structured in Divisions, Commissions, and Working Groups" are professional astronomers from all over the world, at the Ph.D. level and beyond, active in professional research and education in astronomy.Â IAU e-Newsletter Volume 2021 nÂ° 1. Subscribe to the e-Newsletter. IAU Office of Astronomy for Development. IAU Office for Young Astronomers. IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach. IAU Office of Astronomy for Education. International School for Young Astronomers. The International Astronomical Union (IAU; French: Union astronomique internationale, UAI) exists to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy through international cooperation, assign official names and designations to celestial bodies, and liaise with organizations that include amateur astronomers. Founded in 1919 and based in Paris, the IAU is a member of the International Science Council (ISC). ICHA is an abbreviation for INTER-UNION COMMISSION FOR HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY. Share this. Have you found the page useful? Please use the following to spread the word: About | Contact Us Link to Us iOS app | Android Popular Abbreviations Popular Categories. Business Medical Abbreviations Military Abbreviations Technology Slang Terms. Types of Acronyms Acronym Generator. Â© 2005-2020 All Acronyms | Terms | Privacy & Cookies Policy. Search for abbreviation meaning, word to abbreviate, or category. Shortcuts for power users - examples. Welcome to the integrated web portal for UNESCO's Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative, supported by the International Working Group on Astronomy and World Heritage and by the International Astronomical Union through its Commission C4 on World Heritage and Astronomy. The Portal to the Heritage of Astronomy exists to raise awareness of the importance of astronomical heritage worldwide and to facilitate efforts to identify, protect and preserve such heritage for the benefit of humankind, both now and in the future. Full case studies.Â The period from the European Renaissance to the middle of the 20th century was an extremely rich one for the history of astronomy and the initial list focuses on sites of this type. Examples: Uraniborg and Stellaeburgum, Sweden.