

## The IAU Historical Instruments Working Group. 1: progress report 2003–2004

**Wayne Orchiston**

*Anglo-Australian Observatory, and Australia Telescope National Facility,  
P.O. Box 296, Epping, NSW 1710, Australia*  
E-mail: wo@aoepp.aao.gov.au

**Nha Il-Seong**

*The Nha Il-Seong Museum of Astronomy, San-133 Gamchon-myon,  
Yechon-gun, Kyongbuk 757-910, Korea*  
E-mail: SLISNHA@chollian.net

**Juergen Hamel**

*Archenhold Observatory, Alt Treptow 1, D-1193 Berlin, Germany*  
E-mail: jhamel@astw.de

**Kevin Johnson**

*Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2DD, U.K.*  
E-mail: k.johnson@nmsi.ac.uk

**Tsuko Nakamura**

*The National Observatory of Japan, 2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo 181, Japan*  
E-mail: tsuko@cc.nao.ac.jp

**Sara Schechner**

*Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, Harvard University,  
Science Center 251c, 1 Oxford Street, Cambridge MA 02138, USA*  
E-mail: schechn@fas.harvard.edu

A key development since the WG3 (Historical Instruments) Working Group meeting was held at the 2003 July IAU General Assembly in Sydney is that the Board of the Antique Telescope Society has kindly agreed to publish some of the papers from that meeting in 2004 and 2005 issues of the *Journal of the Antique Telescope Society (JATS)*. The following authors plan to submit their papers to *JATS*:

- Johnson, K. A glimpse at the astronomy heritage of the Science Museum, London.
- Kaptüg, V.B., Chubey, M.S., Vereshchagin, S.A., and Sokolov, Y.A. On recovery and research work at the Russian Struve station on Gogland.
- Lomb, N. Historically significant astronomical instruments at Sydney Observatory.
- Nakamura, T. Early historic telescopes preserved in Japan.
- Orchiston, W. History of the 'Catts Telescope': a nineteenth century 20-inch Grubb reflector.
- Pigatto, L., Tomasella, L., and Zanini, V. Telescopes at the Astronomical Observatory of Padova, Italy. From the last refractor to the first reflector.
- Shankland, P.D., and Orchiston, W. Lost and found: saga of the historic Clark refractor at the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Watson, F. James Gregory and the invention of the Cassegrain telescope.

The paper by Kaptüg *et al.* has special significance to

C41/ICHA as it relates to the IAU resolution passed in 1994 about identification, documentation, and preservation of surviving instruments and sites connected with the measurement of the arc of the meridian made by F G W Struve. For an overview of this important project, which is co-ordinated by the International Institution for the History of Surveying & Measurement, see Jim Smith's article on pages 38-42 in *ICHA Newsletter* No. 4 (December 2002).

A recent publication of interest to Working Group members is *Astronomical Instruments and Archives From the Asia-Pacific Region* (2004), details of which appear elsewhere in this report. Included are nine papers on ancient astronomical instruments from China, India, Indonesia and Korea, an astrolabe in the National History Museum in Mexico City, and nineteenth century optical and radio telescopes from Canada and Australia, respectively.

One of the papers in the above-mentioned book is by Sarah Nha (a daughter of Working Group Chair, Professor Nha Il-Seong), and deals with the web site set up by our Working Group to inventory historically-significant astronomical instruments world-wide. The URL is:

<http://www.nhamuseum.org/WG>

Although members of the new Committee (approved at the Sydney IAU General Assembly) are currently in the process of making some structural

modifications to the web site, any C41/ICHA member who has relevant information on historically-significant astronomical instruments is encouraged to contact Sarah Nha and discuss including these instruments in the database. Her e-mail address is: [christin@chollian.net](mailto:christin@chollian.net)

As a policy decision, Committee members of the Working Group have decided to attend various astronomical and scientific instrument meetings during the current IAU triennium, and describe the Working Group's research programme and the database. Wayne Orchiston presented the first of these papers when he attended the 2003 Annual Convention of the Antique Telescope Society, in Denver (USA). His PowerPoint presentation is available upon request (e-mail: [wo@aaoepp.aao.gov.au](mailto:wo@aaoepp.aao.gov.au)), but be warned, it is a 10Mb file that contains many coloured images.

The 2000–2003 Triennial Report of C41/ICHA published in *ICHA Newsletter* No. 4 (December 2002) included a list of references dealing with historic astronomical instruments published during that period. Relevant books and papers published since that list was prepared include:

- Ackermann, S., 2003. Light on Byzantium – a universal sundial in the British Museum. In C. Entwistle (ed.). *Through a Glass Brightly – Studies in Byzantine and Medieval Art and Archaeology Presented to David Buckton*. Oxford, Oxbow Books. Pp. 16-21.
- Beech, M., 2002. The mechanics of cometaria. *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, 5:155-163.
- Beretta, M., Galluzzi, P., and Triarico, C. (eds.), 2003. *Musa Musaei. Studies on Scientific Instruments and Collections in Honour of Mara Miniati*. Florence, Biblioteca di Nuncius Studi e Testi XLIX. [This contains many relevant papers.]
- Bobis, L., and Lequeux, J., 2003. *François Arago & l'Observatoire de Paris*. Paris, Observatoire de Paris.
- Bonoli, F., Miniati, M., Greco, V., and Molesini, G., 2002. Telescope optics of Montanari, Cellio, Campani and Bruni at the "Museo della Specola" in Bologna. *Nuncius*, 2:467-475.
- Brosche, P., 2002. Köhler's sternphotometer von 1786. *Beiträge zur Astronomiegeschichte*, 5:152-158.
- Debauvais, F., and Befort, P.-A., 2002. *Cueillier les Etoiles. Autour des Astrolabes de Strasbourg*. Strasbourg, Editions Ligne à Suivre.
- Dick, S.J., 2003. *Sky and Ocean Joined. The U.S. Naval Observatory 1830-2000*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Dupré, S., 2003. Galileo's telescope and celestial light. *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, 34:369-399.
- Gaab, H., 2002. Johann Philipp von Wurzelbau (1651–1725). *Beiträge zur Astronomiegeschichte*, 5:47-114.
- Hooijmaijers, H., 2003. De omzwingingen van een telescoop. *Gewina*, 26:40-45.
- Hoskin, M.A., 2003. Herschel's 40ft Reflector: funding and functions. *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, 34:1-32.
- Le Guet Tully, F., and Sadsaoud, H., 2003. La création de l'observatoire d'Alger. *La Revue (du Musée des Arts et Métiers)*, 38:26-35.
- Lindner, R.P., 2003. Rebuilding astronomy at Michigan: from Hussey to Goldberg. *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, 6:107-119.
- Maddison, R., 2003. Some typical design features of late eighteenth century Gregorian reflectors. *Journal of the Antique Telescope Society*, 25:17-22.
- Malet, A., 2003. Kepler and the telescope. *Annals of Science*, 60:107-136.
- Mörzer Bruyns, W.F.J., 2003. *Schip Recht Door Zee. De Octant in de Republiek in de achttiende eeuw*. Amsterdam, Edita Knaw.
- Nankivell, G.R., 2002. The Cooke Photovisual Objective and the 22.9cm refractor at the Carter Observatory, New Zealand. *Journal of the Antique Telescope Society*, 24:4-8.
- Orchiston, W., 2002. From Crossley to Carter: the life and times of an historic Cooke refractor. *Journal of the Antique Telescope Society*, 24:9-24.
- Orchiston, W., 2003. Amateur telescope making in Australia. An historical perspective. In W.J. Cook (ed.). *The Best of Amateur Telescope Making Journal. Volume 2*. Richmond, Willmann-Bell. Pp. 208-239.
- Osterbrock, D.E., 2003. Don Hendrix, master Mount Wilson and Palomar optician. *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, 6:1-12.
- Pettersen, B.R., 2002. Christopher Hansteen and the first observatory at the University of Oslo, 1815–28. *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, 5:123-134.
- Satterthwaite, G.E., 2003. Airy's zenith telescopes and "the birth-star of modern astronomy." *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, 6:13-26.
- Shankland, P.D., and Orchiston, W., 2002. Nineteenth century astronomy at the U.S. Naval Academy. *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, 5:165-179.
- Talbot, S., 2002. The astroscope by James Mann of London. The first commercial achromatic refracting telescope c.1735. *Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society*, 75:6-8.
- Talbot, S., 2003. The first telescope dynameter as designed and constructed by Jesse Ramsden. *Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society*, 77:8-9.
- Turner, A.J., 2002. The observatory and the quadrant in eighteenth-century Europe. *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, 33:373-385.
- Turner, G. L'E., 2003a. The Italian-hour nocturnal. *Annals of Science*, 60:249-268.
- Turner, G. L'E., 2003b. *Renaissance Astrolabes and their Makers*. Aldershot, Ashgate Publishing.
- Véron, P., 2003. L'équatorial de la tour de l'est de l'Observatoire de Paris. *Revue d'Histoire des Sciences*, 56:191-220.
- Whitesell, P.S., 2003. Detroit Observatory: nineteenth-century training ground for astronomers. *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*, 6:69-106.
- Zuidervaart, H.J., 2003. "Zo'n mooie machine, waarvan de kwaliteit door alle astronomen wordt erkend." Een biografie van een vrijwel niet gebruikte telescoop. *Gewina*, 26:148-165.

Particularly useful are the bibliographies prepared by the Scientific Instrument Commission of the IUHPS/DHS, as these include many astronomical entries, and readers are referred to the following web site:

[http://www.sic.iuhps.org/in\\_bibli.htm](http://www.sic.iuhps.org/in_bibli.htm)

Another invaluable resource, especially for those with an interest in the history of the telescope is the web site

<http://www.europa.com/~telscope/tebibl.txt>

which was assembled by C41/ICHA member and former Antique Telescope Society President, Peter Abrahams.

