

HERITAGE COMMITTEE Report to the CASCA Board

June 2006

Submitted 2006/05/26 by Randall C. Brooks, Chair

Heritage Committee Members:

Chair: Randall Brooks (2002-06) Canada Science and Technology Museum

Paul Feldman (2004-06) HIA/NRC

Vic Gaizauskas (2004-07) HIA/NRC

Elizabeth Griffin (2004-06) HIA/NRC

Richard Jarrell (2005-08) York University

Nathalie Martimbeau (2004-07) Harvard University

The Heritage Committee has been less active this past year largely due to other commitments of the Chair. Those commitments were unusual and have largely been resolved and activity is beginning to increase.

The resources on the Heritage Committee's website has been added to (specifically a link to the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography / Le Dictionnaire biographique du Canada* with the names of astronomers listed there) but the overall organization and graphic appearance of the site needs some work. Ros Haynes has offered to assist with this and that will be dealt with over the summer. Additional links to biographies of deceased Canadian astronomers will be added and two more core historical documents have been identified for scanning and addition to the site.

Agreement has been reached with the RASC's Historical Committee to work together to avoid duplication of efforts especially with respect to web activities. However, we have yet to follow up with concrete projects.

Attempts to arrange interviews of Don MacRae and Jack Locke were unsuccessful.

Over the last year, the Chair has responded to a small number of enquires mostly concerning deceased astronomers or staff members at observatories. Dave Turner also continues to get press (most recent *Reader's Digest*) and attention for his work on the origins of the stars on the ceiling of St. John's Anglican Church in Lunenburg, NS. Richard Jarrell has been contributing entries for the *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers* which will appear later this year.

Other related events in Canada

The Canada Science and Technology Museum, as part of its Year of Physics exhibit *MégaScience*, included a section on the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Dominion Observatory. The exhibit concentrated on the first 25 years of the Observatory's history and provided an opportunity to exhibit some of the Museum's artifacts which had never been shown since their removal from the Observatory in the early 1970s. Some of the exhibit will remain to be used to support the Museum's astronomy educational programmes.

Some Papers Published by Cdns. with Historical Interest

Martin Beech, "On Ptolemy's Equant, Kepler's Second Law, and the Non-existent "Empty-Focus" Cometarium", *JRASC*, 99 (2005), 1210-123.

Randall Brooks and Helen Graves Smith, "Willard Boyle: New Inductee to the Canadian Science & Engineering Hall of Fame", *Cassiopeia*, Vernal Equinox issue, 2006.

www.casca.ca/ecass/issues/2006-ve/features/boyle/boyle.htm

Martin Clutton-Brock, "Copernicus's Path to His Cosmology", *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, 36 (2005), 197-216.

Robert Egler, "Measuring the Heavens: Astronomical Instruments before the Telescope", *JRASC* 100, (2006), pp. 37-40.

Griffin, E., "Rescuing and recovering lost or endangered data", *Data Science Journ.*, 4, 21, 2005.

Griffin, R.E.M., "The detection and measurement of telluric ozone from stellar spectra" *PASP*, 117, 885-894, 2005.

Griffin, R.E.M., Fioletov, V. and McConnell, J.C., "Measurements of Historical Total Ozone from the Chalonge-Divan Stellar Spectrum Programme: Paper 1. A re-analysis of the 1953-72 data and a comparison with simultaneous Dobson Arosa measurements", *Journal of Geophysical Research* (in press), 2006.

Griffin, R.E.M., "The detection and measurement of total ozone from stellar spectra, Paper 2. Historic data from 1935-42", *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* (in press), 2006.