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CHAMA NEWSLETTER

Commission for History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy
Editors: S.M. Razaullah Ansari, Anne Tihon

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Foreword

In this issue we are happy to present for our members substantial information.

In the section 'New Books', including those in press, details of ten Books are given. It is a pleasure to know that the collected works of Paul Kunitzsch (Munich) and Raymond Mercier (England) will be soon available. Further, the life long work of David King (Frankfurt): *Studies in Islamic Astronomical Timekeeping and Instrumentation*, has seen the light of the day for the historians of astronomy in Islamic Middle Ages. I may recall here another very significant contribution of David King (jointly with Julio Samsó and B.R. Goldstein): *Astronomical Handbooks and Tables from the Islamic World (750-1900): An Interim Report* [Suhayl, Vol. 2(2001), pp. 9-105; reviewed by S. M. R. Ansari, *Mathematical Reviews* (May 2003), No. 1907813(2003e.01007)] along with which we have now an extensive overview of the History of Practical Astronomy in the Islamic World. Out of these 10 Books mentioned in the sequel, only one by A.C. Bowen and R.B. Todd is devoted to Greek Astronomy. Let me here request our members, who are experts of astronomy in antiquity and particularly those who are engaged in studies of East Asian astronomy, to supply to this Commission information from their respective researches, so that this Newsletter becomes a true forum for historians of ancient and medieval astronomy.

Besides the above-mentioned, the readers will find contents of the recent issue of the journal, *Suhayl* (Barcelona), Editor-in-chief: Juan Vernet; and also a selection from Vol. 38 (2003) of the *Indian J. of History of Science* (Editor: A. K. Bag), which is published under the auspices of the Indian National Commission for History of Science (New Delhi) since 1966. Please note also that six members of our Commission have kindly sent us lists of their recent publications. The Commission acknowledges gratefully their cooperation. In the last section: 'News and Announcements', we have notices regarding five conferences and four news items.

As in the last issue, we are publishing an Announcement of the LOC of 22nd ICHS (Beijing-2005). The readers are requested to take note of the deadlines of dates. May I inform the members that this Commission has decided to organise at the History of Science Congress (Beijing-2005) a Symposium, with the title: '*Astronomy in the Oriental, Antique and Medieval World*'. Whereas the word *Orient* encompasses the whole of Afro-Asia: the Far East, South and Central Asia and Middle East, the *Antique* and *Medieval* World point to Greece, Byzantine, and European Middle Ages. We may however also include in *Antique world* the Egyptians, Babylonians and Mayans as well. Consequently, the title of the Symposium reflects quite adequately the ancient and medieval period. If time permits, we may include a couple of talks on the modern astronomy as transmitted to the Far East specifically and to the Third World generally. In fact modern astronomy in general is taken care of usually at the meetings of the Section: Physics and Astronomy (Modern) at the Congress.

As mentioned in the last issue of this *Newsletter*, it may be reiterated that our Symposium will not be confined to purely mathematical astronomy, its development and its transmission, but astronomical-astrological practices of a socio-cultural milieu, astronomical folklore, archeoastronomy etc. may also be accommodated at the Symposium. It is envisaged that a number of renowned historians of astronomy will be invited to present surveys of their state-of-the-art researches. However, the young historians of astronomy will also be given opportunity at least at the poster session.

For the Organising Committee (OC), a *tentative* panel has been formed, namely, S. M. R. Ansari (chair, India), Raymond Mercier (England), Anne Tihon (Belgium) and Michio Yano

(Japan). This Commission has also approached the 'Commission for Islamic Science and Technology' to jointly organise one session on Medieval Islamic Astronomy at CHAMA Symposium. Its acceptance of our invitation is awaited. A list of invited speakers is being compiled. Kindly note that CHAMA has to submit the proposal of this Symposium to the Programme Committee of the 22nd ICHS by the *end of June 2004*, and this Symposium is to be announced in the Second Circular of the Congress, to be published in *Sept. 2004*. Suggestions, if any, are most welcome, but please contact me or Anne Tihon promptly, in any case before the *end of June* definitely.

Finally, I may bring to the notice of the members of this Commission, that our registered membership is covering presently 18 countries, although mostly from Europe and USA - thanks to the time-consuming efforts of the Secretary, Ms. Anne Tihon and her assistant Ms. A. Gribomont. However, this is surely not enough! We have not been able to interact with historians of astronomy in the Middle East and Central Asia, even Korea, China and Arabic-speaking North Africa. May I utilise this opportunity to appeal to each member of CHAMA to assist us in forging contact with other historians of ancient and medieval astronomy (AMA)? Please use the 'Pro-forma of Registration' available on the Commission's Web page or in this Newsletter (last page), make many copies of the Pro-forma and distribute among your field-colleagues and acquaintances. It goes without stressing again that a Commission for AMA has been established for the *first time* in the history of IUHPS, so that all those historians, who have been working on primary source material specifically in classical languages of the world, may interact among themselves and may be acquainted with the work of one another. Let us engage ourselves in a strong membership drive this year, and make the CHAMA a true representative commission /working group of 'Astronomy in the *Antiquity* and in the *Orient*'.

S. M. Razaullah Ansari

The 22nd International Congress of History of Science, July 2005, Beijing. A first Look at the Program and Important Dates

Program

1. Theme

The general theme is "Globalization and Diversity". Discussions will focus on the diffusion of science and technology between different cultures in the past, and its impact on the world today, as well as its prospects for the future advance of human civilization. Scientific sessions and symposia on other topics will also have their place.

2. Scientific Activities

- A) Plenary lectures given by invited experts;
- B) Sections covering the history of science, technology and medicine from antiquity to the

present;

C) Symposia devoted to themes of current interest;

D) Poster sessions.

N.B. A joint letter from the Presidents of both the IPC and LOC has been sent to all Council members, IPC members, chair-persons of National and Scientific Commissions, as well as some selected scholars, inviting them to organize symposia for this Congress. Proposals for organizing symposia from other qualified scholars are also welcomed. Guidelines concerning the nature and structure of a symposium can be found at the Congress website.

3. Business Meetings

A) General Assemblies of the IUHPS/DHS;

B) Council Meetings of the IUHPS/DHS;

C) Meetings of Commissions of the IUHPS/DHS;

D) General Assembly of the International Academy of History of Science;

E) Meetings of other scientific associations and working groups.

4. Other Activities

A) Display and sale of books on history of science and relevant subjects;

B) Exhibitions devoted to special topics;

C) Various cultural programs and local excursions;

D) Post-congress tour to other Chinese cities.

Important Dates

Deadline for symposia proposals: [30th June 2004](#)

Second Circular: [September 2004](#)

Deadline for regular registration: [20th December 2004](#)

Deadline for grant application: [20th December 2004](#)

Confirmation for grant application: [February 2005](#)

Third Circular: [February 2005](#)

Deadline for hotel reservation: [15th March 2005](#)

Deadline for acceptance of abstracts: [15th April 2005](#)

For further information about the conference and access to the registration forms, see <http://2005bj.ihns.ac.cn>

New Books

BOWEN, Alan C. and TODD, Robert B., *Cleomedes' Lectures on Astronomy: A Translation of The Heavens with an Introduction and Commentary*, Hellenistic Culture and Society 42. A Joan Palevsky Book in Classical Literature, Berkeley/London: University of California Press, 2004

Description:

At some time around 200 A.D., the Stoic philosopher and teacher Cleomedes delivered a set of lectures on elementary astronomy as part of a complete introduction to Stoicism for his students. The result was *The Heavens (Caelestia)*, the only work by a professional Stoic teacher to survive intact from the first two centuries A.D., and a rare example of the interaction between science and philosophy in late antiquity. This volume contains a clear and idiomatic English translation--the first ever--of *The Heavens*, along with an informative introduction, detailed notes, and technical diagrams. This important work will now be accessible to specialists in both ancient philosophy and science and to readers interested in the history of astronomy and cosmology but with no knowledge of ancient Greek.

Contents:

Preface
 Abbreviations
 Introduction: Cleomedes' Date; Cleomedes and Posidonius; Physics and Astronomy; Epistemology and Scientific Method; The Criterion and Demonstrative Procedures; Posidonius' Legacy; Outline
 Translation of Cleomedes' *The Heavens*: Book One; Book Two; Figures
 Appendix
 Posidonius on Physics and Astronomy (Fragment 18 EK)
 Glossary of Selected Terms
 Bibliography
 Passages from Cleomedes in Collections of Texts
 General Index
 Index Locorum

CAIOZZO, Anna, *Images du ciel d'Orient au Moyen Âge. Une histoire du zodiaque et de ses représentations dans les manuscrits du Proche-Orient musulman*, Paris, Presses de l'Université de la Sorbonne, 2003, 485p., 48 pl. (Collection Islam dirigée par Marianne Barrucand).

This book is an extensive study of the various representations of the sky, zodiac and stars, in the Muslim world. The author distinguishes the sky of the astronomers, the sky of the

astrologers and the sky of magicians. The book contains many drawings and colour pictures of the manuscripts, but some drawings seem rather odd and different from the original model. Will be reviewed in *Scriptorium*

CHABÁS, José, and GOLDSTEIN, Bernard R., *The Alphonsine Tables of Toledo*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2003, 341p. (Archimedes, New Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, vol. 8)

It is a new edition of the Castilian text of the Libro de las tablas alfonsies, preserved in the manuscript collection in the Biblioteca Nacional of Madrid, ms 3306. The edition is followed by a glossary, an astronomical commentary and a historical study about the legacy of the Alphonsine Tables. Will be reviewed in the Archives Internationales d'Histoire des Sciences.

OSBORN, M., *Time and the Astrolabe in The Canterbury Tales*. Series for Science and Culture vol. 5, University of Oklahoma Press, 2002, Pp. xvii, 350.

This Book has been reviewed by Sigmund Eisner for "The Medieval Review":

<http://www.hti.umich.edu/t/tmr/>

Some extracts of this review are as follows:

"Besides his superb poetry, Geoffrey Chaucer, the fourteenth-century English poet, wrote a number of prose pieces, and one of these was entitled A Treatise on the Astrolabe. (...)Throughout most of the nineteenth century and the first part of the twentieth century, critics were very uncomfortable with the fact that a major British poet wrote a scientific treatise in prose. Science and poetry were believed to be so separate that a poet would overreach himself by dipping into science and a scientist would equally overreach himself by dipping into poetry. (...)

Time and the Astrolabe in the Canterbury Tales is carefully and thoroughly researched. This is no fluttering of the wings by a neophyte scholar. The thesis is original, and the scholarship is compelling. The book contains more than sixty black and white figures, many of which are drawn by Osborn. In an appendix she gives the reader directions and drawings for making his or her own photocopied astrolabe. The bibliography is full, and the notes are copious. With this book, Osborn has placed herself in the vanguard of the new Chaucerian scholarship. She is a fit successor to North, Eade, and Wood and has brought to all of us a new and valuable approach to Chaucer."

SARMA, S. Rajeshvara, *Astronomical Instruments in the Rampur Raza Library*. Published by Dr. W. H. Siddiqi, Raza Library, Rampur (India), 2003, Pp.95+33 Illustrations, ISBN 81-87113-56-1.

For the review of this book, see S.M.R. Ansari, *Indian J. of History of Science*. Vol.39/1(2004), pp. 121-128.

This Catalogue of Astronomical Instruments has to be appreciated in the context of the history of practical/observational astronomy in India, where a school of 'Lahore astrolabists' sprang during the medieval period. Sarma has given in his Catalogue a detailed description of eleven instruments:

1 Damascene astrolabe (13th c.) in Kufic script by Ibn al-Sirraj; 1 French/Portuguese Mariner astrolabe (16th c.); 2 Mughal astrolabes, one each in Persian and Sanskrit scripts(17th c.); 1 celestial globe (15th c.) in Kufic script; 1 Mughal celestial globe (17th c.); 1 English celestial globe (19th c.); and 4 Indian instruments of the 19th c., of which are extant 1 celestial globe, 1 sine quadrant, 1 perpetual calendar and a device for determining the elapsed daytime (Ruznuma) and night time (Shabnuma). The compiler has included in his Catalogue life sketches of the instrument makers, and a concise historical account of the astrolabe and celestial globe in his Introduction of 24 pages. This book is the first illustrated and detailed catalogue of one Indian instrument collection. We look forward eagerly for the publication of the comprehensive, authoritative and unique "Catalogue of Indian Astronomical and Time Measuring Instruments", which Sarma has been compiling all alone for sometime. We wish him all success in this tremendous task (excerpts from Ansari's Book Review).

TURNER, Gerard l'E., *Renaissance Astrolabes and their Makers*, Ashgate, Aldershot, 2003, 320p.

Contents: Preface; Late medieval and renaissance instruments; The craftsmanship of the "Carolingian" astrolabe, IC 3042; A critique of the use of the first point of Aries in dating astrolabes; The astrolabe presented to Cardinal Bessarion in 1462, attributed to Regiomontanus; An astrolabe belonging to Galileo?; The Florentine workshop of Giovanni Battista Giusti, 1556-ca.1575; An astrolabe attributed to Gerard Mercator, ca.1570; The three astrolabes of Gerard Mercator; A Tudor astrolabe by Thomas Gemini and its relationship to an astrological disc by Gerard Mercator of 1551; An astrolabe for Alessandro Farnese, Duke of Parma, by Erasmus Habermel; An unusual Elizabethan silver globe by Charles Whitwell; Zinner's ghosts and a curious date: 1576. Indexes

BOOKS TO BE PUBLISHED

BURNETT CHARLES, YAMAMOTO KEIJI, YANO MICHIO, *Al Qabisi (Alcabitius): The Introduction to Astrology. Editions of the Arabic and Latin texts with an English Translation*, The Warburg Institute, London-Nino Aragone Editore, Turin, 515pp. (expected May 2004)

Presentation by the Publisher:

"In late 10th-century Aleppo, Al-Qabisi wrote a concise introduction to the craft of the judgements of the stars, drawing upon a wide range of Greek, Indian, Persian and Arabic sources. John of Seville's twelfth-century Latin translation led to "Alcabitius's" work becoming the standard introduction to astrology in Western Europe. This new book gives the first critical editions of the Arabic and Latin texts with an annotated English translation. It also includes: catalogues of all the manuscripts of the known medieval versions of the work and of the Renaissance editions of the Latin text; a citation of the work in Byzantine Greek; an edition of another astrological work, *On the Conjunction of the Planets*, attributed in Latin to Alcabitius, and a comprehensive Arabic-Latin and Latin-Arabic glossaries.

KING, David, *In Synchrony with the Heavens. Studies in Astronomical Timekeeping*

and Instrumentation in Medieval Islamic Civilization, vol. 1: *The Call of the Muezzin* (Studies I-IX); vol. 2: *Instruments of Mass Calculation* (Studies X-XVIII), Brill, Leiden, 2004. (Vol.1 appeared in January, vol.2 is to be submitted to Brill in May 2004.)

Abstract by the Author: "The first volume deals with astronomical timekeeping by the sun and the stars and the regulation of the times of Muslim prayer for over a millennium. It is based on over 500 Arabic manuscripts unearthed by the author in libraries around the world that had never been studied before. The earliest sources are from 8th- and 9th- century Baghdad, the later ones from all over the Islamic world.

The second volume deals with the astronomical instruments used by Muslim astronomers for over a millennium, most of which have not been published previously. It includes descriptions of all the instruments from 8th-, 9th and 10th-century Baghdad, and much new information based on several hundred instruments preserved in museums and private collections around the world."

KUNITZSCH, Paul, *Stars and Number. Astronomy and Mathematics in the Medieval Arab and Western Worlds*, to be Published by Ashgate in 2004

Abstract by the Publisher: " These studies brought together in this second collection of articles by Paul Kunitzsch continue the lines of research evident in his previous volume, *The Arabs and the Stars*. (...)

Contents:

Preface: Ptolemy in the Arabic-Latin Tradition: Gerard's Translations of astronomical texts, especially th *Almagest*; Gerard von Cremona als Übersetzer des *Almagest*; Über einige Spuren der syrischen *Almagest*-Übersetzung; Die astronomische Terminologie in *Almagest*; A Hitherto Unknown Arabic Manuscript of the *Almagest*, The second Arabic Mansucript of Ptolemy's *Planisphaerium*; The Role of al-Andalus in the Transmission of Ptolemy's *Planisphaerium* and *Almagest*; Fragments of Ptolemy's *Planisphaerium* in an Early Latin Translation; Das Arabische als Vermittel und Anreger europäischer Wissenschaftssprache; Erfahrungen und Beobachtungen bei der Arbeit mit Texten der arabisch-lateinischen Übersetzungsliteratur (Mathematik-Astronomie).

Arabic Astronomy: The Chapter on the Fixed Stars in Zaradusht's *Kitab al-Mawalid*; The Astronomer al-Sufi as source for Ulug Beg's Star Catalogue (1437); Al-Sufi and the Astrolabe Star; An Arabic Celestial Globe from the Schmidt Collection, Vienna.

Arabic Astronomy in the West: Les relations scientifiques entre l'Occident et le monde Arabe à l'époque de Gerbert; Traces of a 10th-century Spanish-Arabic Astrolabe; La table des climats dans le corpus des anciens textes latins sur l'astrolabe; The Stars on the Rete of the so-called "Carolingian Astrolabe"; Three dubious stars in the oldest European table of Astrolabe Stars; The chapter on the sats in an Early European treatise on the use of the Astrolabe (c. 1000 A.D.); A note on Ascelinus' Table of Astrolabe Stars; On six kind of Astrolabe: a hitherto unknown Latin treatise; Zur Problematik des Astrolabsterne: eine weitere unbrauchbare Sterntafel; Coronelli's great celestial globe made for Louis XIV, the nomenclature; Rätselhafte Sternnamen.

Mathematics and Numbers: Finding in some texts of Euclid's *Elements* (medieval transmission Arabo-Latin); "The Peacock's Tail": on the names of some theorems of Euclid's *Elements*;

Letters in geometrical diagrams, Greek-Arabic-Latin; The transmission of Hindu-Arabic numerals reconsidered.

Indexes

MERCIER, Raymond, *Studies on the Transmission of Medieval Mathematical Astronomy*, to be Published by Ashgate in 2004.

Abstract by the Publisher: "Studies on the Transmission of Medieval Mathematical Astronomy opens with a new survey of the transmission of Hellenistic astronomy, followed by two studies on how the notion of precession was treated by Babylonian, Greek, Indian, Arabic and Latin hands. There is a survey of the astronomical tables that appeared in Latin during the 12th century, drawn mainly from Arabic and to some extent from Hebrew, as well as a special study of the Latin tables for London and Pisa drawn originally from the 10th -century Islamic Astronomer al-Sufi. For the Sanskrit texts, the focus is on the demonstration that the systems were found on observations made in India, even though much of the theory was Greek in origin. On Byzantine material there are studies of the Persian Syntaxis the source of which lay in the Persian Zij-i Ilkhani, and of the diverse materials drawn on by Gemistus Plethon."

Contents: Introduction: the transmission of the Hellenistic legacy on astronomy; Studies in the medieval conception of precession; Accession and recession: reconstruction of the parameters; From Tantra to Zij; The meridians of reference of Indian astronomical canons; The parameters of the Zij of Ibn al-'Alam; Astronomical tables in the 12th century; The lost Zij of al-Sufi in the 12th century tables for London and Pisa; The Greek "Persian Syntaxis" and the Zij -i Ilkhani; The Astronomical Tables of George Gemistus Plethon; The date of the Mahasiddhanta; Indexes.

Volume of *Suhayl* 3(2002-03): Journal for the History of the Exact and Natural Sciences in Islamic Civilisation

Contents

- DAVID A. KING, *An astrolabe from 14th-century Christian Spain with inscriptions in Latin, Hebrew and Arabic. A unique testimonial to an intercultural encounter*, pp. 9-156.
- ROSA COMES, *Arabic, Rumi, Coptic, or merely Greek Alphanumerical Notation? The Case of a Mozarabic 10th Century Andalus Manuscript*, pp. 157-186.
- PAUL KUNITZSCH, *A New Manuscript of Abu Bakr al- Hassar's Kitab al-Bayan*, pp. 187-192.
- CARLOS DORCE, *The Taj al-azyaj of Muhyi al-Din al-Maghribi (d. 1283): Methods of computation*, pp. 193-212.
- THOMAS F. GLICK & SIMONNE TEIXEIRA, *Azaira, alhetma: Two medieval arabisms reflecting the allocation of irrigation water*, pp. 213-220.
- J.L. MANCHA, *A note on Copernicus' "correction" of Ptolemy's mean synodic month*, p. 221-

229.

- HAMID-REZA GIAHI YAZDI, *Nasir al-Din al-Tusi on Lunar Crescent Visibility and an Analysis with Modern Altitude-Azimuth Criteria*, p. 231-243.

Reviews

- BRUCE S. EASTWOOD, *The Revival of Planetary Astronomy in Carolingian and Post-Carolingian Europe* (J. Samsó), p. 245.

- FRITZ S. PEDERSEN, *The Toledan Tables. A review of the manuscripts and the textual versions with an edition* (J. Samsó), pp. 246-250.

- AHMAD JABBAR & MUHAMMAD ABALLAGH, *Hayat wa-mu'allafat Ibn al-Banna al-Murakushi ma'a nusuh ghayr manshura* (J. Samsó), pp. 251-255.

- IHSANOGLU, EKMELEDDIN (Ed.), *Osmanli Astronomi Literatürü Tarihi (History of Astronomy Literature during the Ottoman Period (2 vols.); Osmanli Matematik Literatürü Tarihi (History of Mathematical Literature during the Ottoman Period (2 vols.); Osmanli Coğrafya Literatürü Tarihi (History of Geographical Literature during the Ottoman Period (2 vols.))* (E. Calvo, M. Comes & R. Puig), p. 256

For further information on Suhayl, visit <http://www.ub.es/arab/lilibrevs/Suhayl.htm>

Selection from *Indian J. of History of Science (IJHS)*, Vol.38 (2003)

-A. K. BAG, Luni-Solar Calendar, Kali Ahargana and Julian Days, pp. 17-37.

-A. K. BAG, A Note on the Ahargana and the Weekdays as per Modern Suryasiddhanta, pp.39-42.

-K. CHANDRA HARI, Eclipse Observations of Paramesvara, The 14-15 Century Astronomer of Kerala, pp. 43-57.

-M. S. SRIRAM et al, 500 years of Tantrasangraha: A Landmark in the History of Astronomy, reviewed by K. V. Sarma, p.71-72.

-S. IKEYAMA, Brahasphutasiddhanta (chap.21) of Brahmagupta with Commentary of Prthudaka, critically edited with English translation and Notes, Supplement pp. S1-S74.

-R. N. IYENGAR, Internal Consistency of Eclipse and Planetary Positions in Mahabharata, pp.77-115.

-K. RAMASUBRAMANIAN and M. S. SRIRAM, Correction to the Terrestrial Latitude in Tantrasangraha, pp.129-144.

- S. IKEYAMA, Brahamasphutasiddhanta(chap.21) of Brahmagupta with Commentary of Prthudaka, critically edited with English translation and Notes, Supplement pp.S.75-S152.
- K. CHANDRA HARI, Computation of the True Moon by Madhava of Sangama-grama, pp. 231-253.
- S. BALACHANDRA RAO, S. K. UMA and P. VENUGOPAL, Lunar Eclipse Computation in Indian Astronomy with special Reference to Grahalaghavam, ppp.255-271.
- S. M. RAZAULLAH ANSARI (Ed.), Science and Technology in the Islamic World, reviewed by A.K. Bag, pp.303-308.
- K. V. SARMA, Science Texts in Sanskrit in Manuscripts Repositories of Kerala and Tamilnadu, reviewed by S. R. Sarma, pp.309-311.
- S. IKEYAMA, Brahamasphutasiddhanta (chap.21) of Brahmagupta with Commentary of Pr? thudaka, critically edited with English translation and Notes, Supplement pp. S.153-S.236.
- G. ABRAHAM and J. SAMUEL CORNELIUS, Observational Astronomy, pp.367-376.
- S. IKEYAMA, Brahamasphutasiddhanta (chap.21) of Brahmagupta with Commentary of Pr? thudaka, critically edited with English translation and Notes, Supplement pp. S.237-S.308.

A New Publication: *Aestimatio: Critical Reviews in the History of Science*

The Institute for Research in Classical Philosophy and Science (Princeton, NJ) is pleased to announce a new publication, *Aestimatio: Critical Reviews in the History of Science*. This review will provide critical, timely assessments of books published in the history of what was called science from antiquity up to the early modern period in cultures ranging from Spain to India, and from Africa to northern Europe. The aim is to allow reviewers the opportunity to engage critically both the results of research in the history of science and how these results are obtained.

Aestimatio is available at <http://www.ircps.org/publications/aestimatio/rpublished.htm>

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Recent Publications and Projects of our Members

BOIY TOM

- "Dating a cuneiform tablet during the early Hellenistic period", *Journal of Classical Studies*, 52 (2000), pp. 115-121.
- "Dating problems in cuneiform tablets concerning the reign of Antigonus Monophthalmus", *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 121 (2001), pp. 645-649.
- "Early Hellenistic Chronography in Cuneiform Tradition", *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik*, 138 (2002), pp. 249-255.
- "The "Accession Year" in the Late Achaemenid and Early Hellenistic Period", in *Mining the Archives. Festschrift for Christopher Walker on the Occasion of his 60th Birthday*, Ed. C. Wunsch (Babylonische Archive 1), Dresden, 2002, pp. 25-33.

COMES, MERCÈ

- "The Possible Scientific Exchange between the Courts of Hulaghu of Maragha and Alphonse 10th of Castile", in *La Science dans le Monde Iranien* (in press).
- "La cartografia a Mallorca i a Barcelona", in *La Ciència als Països Catalans*, Institut d'Estudis Catalans (in press).
- "Islamic Geographical Coordinates: al-Andalus Contribution to the Correct Measurement of the Size of the Mediterranean", in *Science in Islamic Civilization. Studies and Sources on the History of Science*, Istanbul, 2000, pp. 123-138.
- "Ibn al-Ha'im's Trepidation Model", *Suhayl*, 2 (2001); pp. 291-408.
- "Some New Maghribi Sources dealing with Trepidation", in S.M.R. Ansari (Ed.), *Science and Technology in the Islamic World Proceedings of the XXth International Congress of History of Science (Liège, 20-26 July 1997)*, Brepols (Liege), 2002, pp. 121-141.

Scientific Project: Preparation of a new edition, corrected and enlarged with western tables, of Kennedy's Geographical Coordinates of Localities from Islamic Sources.

PEPPIN, BARLOW N.

- *Care of Astronomical Instruments and Accessories - A Manual for the Astronomical Observer and Amateur Telescope Maker*, Springer-Verlag, in-press [Aug. 2004]
- *The Emergence of the Telescope: Janssen, Lipperhey, and the Unknown Man*, Duncanville, T Tauri Productions, revised ed. 2003. For further information, visit : <http://pages.sbcglobal.net/ttauri>
- "In Quest of the Youngest Moon: Young Moons and the Islamic Calendar", *Sky & Telescope*, December 1996, pp. 104-106.

- (with Patrick Moore), "Beyond Messier: The Caldwell Catalogue", *Sky & Telescope*, December 1995, pp. 38-43.

- "Seven Arrows in the Sky - The Observations of Johannes Sachariassen", *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, Vol. 103, No. 5, Oct. 1993.

Scientific Project: World Survey of Refracting Telescopes, ongoing comprehensive survey of observatories with refracting instruments, with dates of fabrication and installation, opticians and mechanics, physical data of telescopes and associated installations. Data sorted by region, country, optician, and aperture.

RODRIGEZ-ARIBAS, JOSEFINA

- "Les significations de 'et et de zeman dans le commentaire de Qohélet d'Abraham ibn Ezra" (The meanings of 'et and zeman in the A. ibn Ezra's commentary to Ecclesiastes), *Revue d'Études Juives*, (in press).

- "El profeta Oseas y la astrología en el comentario bíblico de A. ibn Ezra" (Hosea the prophet and the astrology in A. ibn Ezra's biblical commentary), *Miscelánea de Estudios Árabes y Hebraicos*, 52 (2003), (in press).

- "Ptolomeo y la teoría lunar del judío Abraham ibn 'Ezra" (Ptolemy and the lunar theory of the Jew Abraham ibn Ezra), in *Proceedings of the XI Congress of the Spanish Society of Classical Studies*, University de Santiago de Compostela (Spain), September 2003, (in press).

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News and Announcement

EVENTS

- **Science in Contact at the Beginning of the Scientific Revolution, June 20-27 2004, Prague**, Czech Republic. The conference will be hosted by National Technical Museum in Prague.

The EU Commission has decided, in accordance with the EU programme for cultural support - Cultura 2000 - to grant a three-year network support to the institutions responsible for the care and maintenance of the legacy left by the astronomers and scientists who founded our modern worldview. The scientists in question are Nicolaus Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler, Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton.

The network, which is co-ordinated by Landskrona Cultural Department (Sweden), shall be operative during 2002-2004, and will focus on interpreting and enlivening how the knowledge of our modern worldview evolved as a result of scientific co-operation within Europe.

The top of the scientific part of the project should be a conference "Science in Contact at the Beginning of the Scientific Revolution". The themes for the conference shall be as following:

- Ways of circulating scientific results of fundamental importance in Europe.
- Creation of research centres (Hven, Kassel, Prague, Florence, Cambridge etc). Travels of scientists and their ideas.
- Acceptance, rejection or proof of ideas and speculations of the period up to commencement of scientific research.
- Instruments used in this and their development and influence on scientific knowledge.
- Precision of observation and discovery and formulation of natural laws.
- Some of the leading figures of this stage: Copernicus, Galileo, Brahe, Kepler, Newton and people around them.
- Merits of free movement of scholars.
- Science and technology - ideas circulating very rapidly internationally.

Local Organizing Committee: Jaroslav Folta, chairman (jaroslav.folta@ntm.cz)

Antonin Svejda, scientific programme supervisor (antonin.svejda@ntm.cz)

Jitka Zamrzlova, conference manager (jitka.zamrzlova@ntm.cz)

Jana Nekvasilova, conference manager (jana.nekvasilova@ntm.cz)

For further information visit: <http://www.ntm.cz/auvod.htm>

- **Seventh Oxford Conference on Archaeoastronomy, June 20-27 2004**, Flagstaff, Arizona, USA

Contacts: Jeffrey Hall, Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, USA, e-mail: Oxford7@earthlink.net

For further information visit: <http://www.lowell.edu/Public/ox7/index.html>

- **Horoscopes and History, July 26-28, Amsterdam**, The Netherlands:

In this conference, the general theme "Horoscopes and History" will be approached from several perspectives:

- Horoscopes as historical sources
- Horoscopes as astronomical sources
- Horoscopes as rhetoric device.
- Horoscopes and biographical narrative

Given the wide spectrum of source material, the conference is not limited to one specific period in the history of Western culture. The aim is rather to systematically explore the role of

horoscopes in historical research and to apply these methodological considerations to concrete case studies and different contexts.

Contacts: Kocku von Stuckrad, University of Amsterdam, History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents, Oude Turfmarkt 147, NL - 1012 GC Amsterdam, The Netherlands, e-mail: c.k.m.vonstuckrad@uva.nl

For further information, visit: <http://www.amsterdamhermetica.com>

- **Solar Eclipse Conference, 20-22 August 2004, Open University Milton Keynes**, England,

Some papers on History and Astronomy:

- Leo Dubal (France): "Questioning Ancient Eclipse Records"
- Pierre Guillermier (France): "Eclipse Paintings in the XVIth and XVIIth Century : The Pieter Paul Ruben's Christ on the Cross and the Antoine Caron's Dionysius the Areopagite"
- Peter Hingley (UK): "Picturing Eclipses: 500 Years of Eclipse Imagery"
- Eli Maor (USA): "Jeremiah Horrocks and the 1639 Transit of Venus"
- Eckehard Schmidt (Germany): "Nuremberg - Its History of Solar Eclipses"
- F. Richard Stephenson (UK): "Historical Eclipses: Then and Now"
- Robert van Gent (The Netherlands): "Early Examples of Eclipse Mapping"

For further information, visit:

http://solareclipsewebpages.users.btopenworld.com/SEC_files/SEC2004.html

- **XXIII Scientific Instrument Symposium, September 6-11 2004, Dresden**, Germany

Deadline for the submission of abstract: 30 June 2004

Contacts: SIS 2004, Dresden State Art Collections, Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon, Zwinger, D-01067 Dresden, Germany, Tel. +49 (0) 351 4914-661, Fax +49 (0) 351 4914-666, e-mail: info@sis2004-dresden.de

URL: <http://www.sis2004-dresden.de>

NEWS

- The two volumes announced in the previous Newsletter, *Ketuprakasha: Studies in the*

History of the Exact Sciences in Honour of David Pingree and Astronomy and Astrology from the Babylonians to Kepler :Essays Presented to Bernard R. Goldstein on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday are now published

- The Contents of the February 2004 Issue of *The Journal of History of Astronomy* is available at the following address: <http://www.shpltd.co.uk/jha.html>
- **Ibn Sina Academy** : Abu 'Ali Ibn Sina na (980-1037) was a famous personality of the Islamic Middle Ages. His Encyclopaedia on Medicine (*Al-Qanun*) and another on Science (*Kitab al-Shifa'*) are well-known to historians of medicine and science. In honour of this great scholar, an academy has been established, namely *Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Science* on 1st March 2000 in Aligarh (India). The President of the Academy is S. Zillur Rahman, and its Secreteray is S. M. Razaullah Ansari, both former professors of Aligarh Muslim University. The Academy has published to-date 12 issues of the *Newsletter of the Ibn Sina Academy* (NISA), comprising 192 pages. Its last issue is Vol. 4, No. 1 (2004); No.2 is in press. NISA (Ed. S.M.R. Ansari) is a quarterly publication. It contains "short research communications" also, besides news items concerning conferences/symposia, research projects and fellowships, and selected bibliography of recent publications etc.; all concerning medicine and science. A section on 'Documentation' has also been included in the last issue. For contact use e- mail addresses: rahmansz@sancharnet.in or Raza.Ansari@gmx.net

Links: www.ibnsinaacademy.com

- Updating of the *Bibliography on the History of Western Astrology* by David Juste: The extensive Bibliography on the History of Astrology created by David Juste has just been updated. For further information: http://www.sas.ac.uk/warburg/institute/astro_bibliointro.htm

Registration form

To become a member of CHAMA, please, fill the [registration form](#) and send it as an attachment to _tihon@ori.ucl.ac.be