

Michael A. Hoskin agreed to serve as General Editor, and he in turn negotiated a publishing agreement with Cambridge University Press.

The first half of the 20th-century volume, 4A, was published in 1984, and volume 2A, which was brought to completion by Curtis Wilson, appeared in 1989. Most of the subsequent delays have been caused by tardy authors. Hoskin is fond of pointing out that a convoy is only as fast as the slowest ship, and this has proved true of the GHA project.

However, volume 2B has been ready for over a year, and a lack of attention by the Cambridge University Press has prevented its appearance this year. The project finally seems to be back on track. John North has taken over the editorship of volume 1 from Olaf Pedersen, and Hoskin's own volume 3 should be ready within a year, as should my volume 4B.

#### Discussion

W. Orchiston : Is John North aware that the British Museum has a book titled "Astronomer before the telescope" in press, where there are already a number of authors who have already done the research and groundwork which may be suitable to be developed as chapters for the C.U.P. book?

O. Gingerich : The British Museum book has an excellent set of authors, and unfortunately for the GHA project, there will be a considerable overlap.

J.-C. Pecker : It would be necessary to insure that volume III contains the ingredients necessary to understand IVb-cosmology, such as Mach's ideas, or Michelson-Morley experiments about ether and light velocity .

## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY

S. Dick, *US Naval Observatory, Washington DC, USA* gave a report in the name of John Lankford, Editor of the Encyclopedia.

#### Discussion

A. Gurshtein : The idea of this Encyclopedia is very important but unfortunately the situation is such as Prof. Gingerich described for General History but absolutely reversed. I was forced to give my entries before May of the last year and from that time tried to communicate with John Lankford several times by e-mail but in vain. The communication to discuss some current points should be improved.

**S. Débarbat** gave informations about the project of a **History of the BIH**, saying that **B. Guinot** (last director of the BIH) has still in mind to write on the subject on which he began to work from archival material.

## A NEW WORKING GROUP IN HISTORY AND ITS ACTIVITIES : THE "ARBEITSKREIS ASTRONOMIEGESCHICHTE" OF THE ASTRONOMISCHE GESELLSCHAFT

P. Brosche, *Observatorium Hoher List, Bonn, Germany*

W. Dick, *Institut für angewandte Geodäsie, Potsdam, Germany*

The *Arbeitskreis Astronomiegeschichte of the Astronomische Gesellschaft* has been founded during the annual meeting of the society at Jena (Germany) on September 14, 1992. Aims of the working group are: (1)

Organizing scientific meetings, (2) providing information about publications and other activities in the field of the history of astronomy, (3) undertaking joint projects.

The working group releases a newsletter in German language *Mitteilungen zur Astronomiegeschichte* as well as special issues with bibliographies. In 1994, the working group started to issue an electronic newsletter in German language, *Elektronische Mitteilungen zur Astronomiegeschichte*. It contains announcements of conferences, exhibitions, new books and other related material. An English translation, *Electronic Newsletter for the History of Astronomy*, is available. Outside Germany all newsletters are distributed free of charge. To be included into the mailing list please send an E-Mail message to W. Dick ([wdi@potsdam.ifag.de](mailto:wdi@potsdam.ifag.de)).

#### Discussion

W.T. Sullivan : "HASTRO" is a valuable electronic forum for discussion of issues in the history of astronomy and in archeoastronomy. To subscribe to this E-mail bulletin board, contact Prof. S. McClusky, Dept. of History, University of West Virginia, Morgantown, West Virginia, USA.

### **AURA, KITT PEAK AND CERRO TOLOLO - THE EARLY YEARS**

Frank K. Edmondson, *Indiana University, Bloomington, USA*

I retired as Chairman of the Indiana University Astronomy Department in 1978. This gave me time to start this project, a response to strong suggestions made by David Crawford, Albert Hiltner and Arne Slettebak several years earlier. During a 1978-79 sabbatical I taped 49 oral histories and collected archival material at the National Science Foundation and in Tucson. I was back in the classroom for four more years after the sabbatical, during which I taped 34 oral histories and continued to look for archival material. I became Professor Emeritus in 1983, which gave me full time to finish the archival search. I taped 9 oral histories in 1983-91. Altogether, I taped oral histories with 85 individuals in 92 interview sessions, and visited 23 institutions to collect archival material. 26 individuals provided archival material from their personal files.

I started to write in January 1988 and finished the 560 page manuscript on December 3, 1993. Two-thirds of the pages are text and one-third are the references. The Cambridge University Press has reviewed the manuscript, and the Press Syndicate of the University is expected to make the decision about publication in the near future.

### **THE NASA SETI HISTORY PROJECT**

Steven Dick, *US Naval Observatory, Washington DC, USA*

The purpose of the NASA SETI History Project is to document NASA's twenty-five year involvement in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), and to produce a written history of this effort. The project seeks to place the NASA program in the context of the much longer history of ideas about extraterrestrial life, including concepts for interplanetary