

ASSA SYMPOSIUM

I.S. Glass

Introduction

The First ASSA Symposium was held from the 23rd to the 25th of April at the South African Museum and SAAO. This event was originally suggested by J.A. da Silva Campos during his year as President of ASSA but owing to the time required to make the necessary arrangements, could not be held until now. The sub-committee in charge consisted of Dr Tom Lloyd Evans, Mrs Ann Strauss and myself. Mrs Elmara Willis of the SA Museum Planetarium, though not actually a member of the sub-committee, also played a large part in making the arrangements and we would like to extend to her and her staff our thanks for their efforts. The Director of the SA Museum, Dr M.A. Cluver, is also thanked for making the venue available to us.

In excess of 80 people attended the Symposium and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. For my own part, it was a unique opportunity to meet many of the active amateurs of the sub-continent who had only been names to me before.

The lectures turned out to be of a high standard. One of the highlights was a dramatic demonstration of the value and method of grazing occultations using a lumpy potato as a model, by Danie Overbeek. Later, Danie received an ovation from the Symposium, during Jan Hers' talk, for his record in the field of variable star observations.

Programme of Meeting

23 April

First Session: Chairman Dr Tom Lloyd Evans, President of ASSA

A.D. Thackeray Lecture: What the Magellanic Clouds Tell Us, or the Treasure Chest that David Thackeray Opened. Prof M.W. Feast.

Open Galactic Clusters and the Interstellar Medium. Prof W. Wargau, UNISA.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly - a talk on Telescope Making. J.V. Vincent, Harare Centre
The Role of the ASSA Comet and Meteor Section and Individuals in the improvement of Comet and Meteor Observations. J.A. da Silva Campos (Vice-President of ASSA; Director of Comet and Meteor Section), Natal Centre.

The Solar Eclipse of June 1992. J.Knight, Director of Solar Section, ASSA.

Amateur Occultation Work. M.D. Overbeek, Director of the Occultations Section, ASSA.

Photometry with a Home Computer. B. Fraser.

Second Session: Dr Ian S. Glass, Chairman

R.P. de Kock Lecture: Novae and Other Eruptive Stars Prof Brian Warner, University of Cape Town.

The Cataclysmic Variable V442 Cen. M.G. Soltynski, Vice-President, ASSA.

Satellites. Greg Roberts, SAAO. In addition to his professional astronomical work, Greg is a keen observer of artificial satellites.

International Space Year. Jonathan Spencer Jones, former President of ASSA.

SUNSAT Satellite Programme: Status and Progress. Prof Garth W. Milne, Dept of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Stellenbosch. (The SUNSAT is South Africa's own satellite project).

Microsatellite Orientation Control -- UOSAT and SUNSAT. W.H. Steyn, Dept of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Stellenbosch.

Evening Lecture

A Special Time, a Special Place and a Special Universe

Prof A.P. Fairall, University of Cape Town, Director of the S.A. Museum Planetarium

Followed by: Planetarium show **Home Planet**

24 April 1992

Third Session: Chairman J.A. da Silva Campos, Vice-President, ASSA

Pulsating Stars. Dr Robert S. Stobie, Director of SAAO.

A Professional Looks at Long-Period Variables. Dr Tom Lloyd Evans, SAAO, President of ASSA.

Recent Results on R Cor Bor Stars. Dr D.W. Kilkenny, SAAO.

The Radio Sky. Justin Jonas, Physics Dept, Rhodes University.

Active Galactic Nuclei. Don Bramwell, Hartebeeshoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO).

Infrared CCD Pictures. Dr I.S. Glass, SAAO.

Fourth Session: M.J. Soltynski, Vice-President of ASSA, Chairman

The New South African Dictionary of Astronomy: Can it Help towards Popularising Astronomy Amongst Afrikaans-Speaking Children?. Dr. J.H. de Klerk, Dept Wiskunde en Toegepaste Wiskunde, PU vir CHO.

Astronomy Education at HartRAO, Don Bramwell, HartRAO.

Astronomy, the Science Movement and Politics in the Future South Africa. Keith Gottschalk, Dept of Political Studies, University of the Western Cape.

Visual Variable Star Observing in the 1990's, Jan Hers.

The Earth is a Wooden disc - Theory and Observations in Early Astronomy, Dr David Laney, SAAO.

Planetarium Show *Fifteen Million BC*

Evening

Viewing the sky at SAAO

The McLean telescope (18--inch visual refractor) and the 6-inch were open for visitors. Also the Astronomical Museum.



Tony Fairall, Theo Ferreira and Jim Knight.



Elmara Willis, Danie Overbeek and Jose Campos



Keith Gottshalk and Audry Joubert



Ann Rogers, Chris Forder and Brian Skinner

(Photos: J. Joubert)

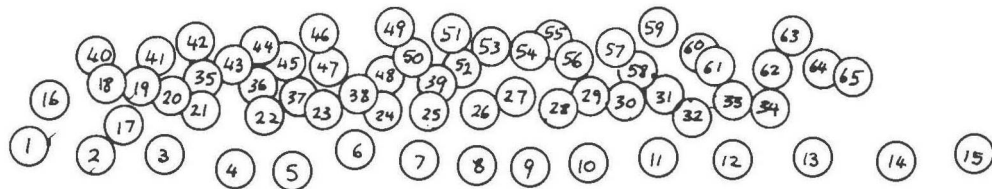
25 April 1992
Morning at SAAO

Tours of the main building with its library and computer room, the telescopes and the workshops, including many items that were not usually shown to visitors. Amongst the items under construction is the Automatic Photometric Telescope for Sutherland.

Demonstrations were offered by A. Slotegraaf - *DOC - Deepsky Observer's Companion*, a software package, by Rev Edward Carey - *Cheap, Easy-to-Make Apparatus to Enhance Astronomical Evenings*. The latter consisted of demonstrations of an instructive and educational nature.

The conference ended with a braai.

Poster Papers (displayed near the lecture venue) included:
Recent Variability in the S Dor-type star AG Car. T. Cooper
Observations of the RCB Variable RY Sgr. J.V. Vincent
Variable Star Miscellany. T. Lloyd Evans



Conference photograph. Identifications: 1 B Warner, 2 AP Fairall, 3 B Fraser, 4 J Hers, 5 J Knight, 6 K Gottschalk, 7 J Campos, 8 JV Vincent, 9 T Lloyd Evans (President), 10 W Wargau, 11 M Soltynski, 12 J Spencer Jones, 13 G Roberts, 14 JH de Klerk, 15 IS Glass, 16 Mrs Cooper, 17 E Willis, 18 D Overbeek, 19 ?, 20 A Joubert, 21 RS Stobie, 22 Schmieder 23 M Bamping 24 A Viljoen 25 ?, 26 M Haslam, 27 P Booth, 28 FJ Le Roux, 29 J Churns, 30 D Bramwell, 31 JD Laing, 32 J Jonas, 33 L Fouche, 34 P van Blommestein, 35 CF du Toit, 36 ? 37 E Uys, 38 ?, 39 ?, 40 ?, 41 ?, 42 A Slotegraaf, 43 R Philip, 44 D Cronje, 45 P Connor, 46 D Blane, 47 A Cameron, 48 T. Turner, 49 D Kilkenny, 50 ?, 51 T Cooper, 52 CC Smith, 53 E Carey, 54 R Sessions, 55 D van Heerden, 56 RB Malherbe, 57 J Watson, 58 R Hurly, 59 T Ferreira, 60 J Strauss, 61 K Buchmann, 62 A Rogers, 63 T Budge, 64 C Forder, 65 B Skinner. (Photo: J Joubert)