



SHA e-News

Society for the History of Astronomy

Volume 6, no. 4, October 2014.

Editor: David Sellers

HISTORIC CELESTIAL ATLAS TO STAR IN BBC TV SHOW



BBC presenter Tim Wonnacott and SHA officer Kevin Kilburn display the Bevis Atlas

The Great Antiques Map of Britain is a new BBC TV series due to air towards the end of the year. Presenter, Tim Wonnacott embarks on a nationwide journey to discover the people, the places, the antiquities and collectables that tell the story of Great Britain.

Before he arrives, Tim throws down the challenge to the locals to bring him their precious family heirlooms and antiques for an expert opinion and appraisal.

When a visit to their city was announced, Manchester Astronomical Society (MAS) seized the opportunity to bring along their rare copy of the mid-18th century celestial atlas of John Bevis - also known as 'Uranographia Britannica'.

This was discovered in the Godlee Observatory by members of MAS in 1997 and is held at Chetham's Library. Less than 30 copies are known to exist



worldwide. During the show, which will be broadcast sometime in October or November, an auctioneer valued the atlas at between £30,000-£35,000.

MAS will soon be publishing a new CD with high resolution digital images of the entire atlas. Watch out for purchasing details.

SHA CHAIRMAN UNVEILS BLUE PLAQUE FOR EDWARD J LOWE



SHA Chairman Madeline Cox recently unveiled a blue plaque in honour of astronomer, meteorologist and botanist Edward J Lowe (1825-1900) at Shirenewton Hall in Monmouthshire. Lowe spent his working life in Nottingham, but retired to Shirenewton in 1880.

Children of the local primary school were among the guests, and some of them are pictured here. Also in the picture, on the left, is Lowe's great-great-granddaughter, Lisa Backhouse, who had travelled from Winchester to attend the ceremony. A fuller report will appear in the *Bulletin*.

2016 SPRING CONFERENCE

The 2016 SHA Spring Conference will held in Bath, jointly with the William Herschel Society. Date and venue to be confirmed soon.

FUTURE SHA MEETINGS

2014 AGM / AUTUMN CONFERENCE

The Annual General Meeting & Autumn Conference will be held at the Birmingham & Midlands Institute on **25 October 2014**. Talks will include:-

Dr Allan Chapman on *Copernicus, Galileo, the Telescope & the Church 1500-1700* (the subject of Allan's latest book - due out Oct. 2014)

Doug Bateman on *The Greenwich Timeball*

Lee Macdonald on the *History of the Kew Observatory*

Prof. Bill Leatherbarrow on *The Amateur's Moon: British Selenography and the BAA Lunar Section*

Registration begins at 9.30 for a start at 10.00. The Conference finishes at 17.00. Book in advance if possible: £5 for members, £10 for non-members. Friends and family members welcome (Pre-register via roger.hutchins@btinternet.com).

2015 Joint SHA-BAA HISTORICAL SECTION CONFERENCE

This event will be on Saturday **28 March 2015** at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and will feature presentations by the following speakers:

William Sheehan on *Mars: from the canals to Curiosity*

Stuart Clark on *Richard Carrington (and the Solar Flare of 1859)*

Anthony Kinder on *the BAA/SHA historical membership project*

Bob Marriott on *William Rutter Dawes*

Roger Jones on *The SHA Survey*

2015 SUMMER PICNIC

The summer picnic will be on Saturday **4th July 2015** at Woolsthorpe Manor (Newton's house) and will include a tour of the house and a visit to Colsterthorpe Church.

2015 AGM / AUTUMN CONFERENCE

The Annual General Meeting & Autumn Conference for next year will be held at the Birmingham & Midlands Institute on **31 October 2015**. Members are encouraged to give presentations, or exhibit posters relating to their research, at this and future SHA events and anyone wishing to do so should should contact Kevin Kilburn (kevinkilburn@sky.com) in the first instance.

SHA COUNCIL

The current SHA Officers & Council are:

Honorary Council Members

Hon President Dr Allan Chapman
Hon Vice-President Dr Michael Hoskin
Hon Vice-President Prof. Sir Arnold Wolfendale,FRS

Council Members

Chairman (& Librarian) Madeline Cox
Vice-Chairman Kevin Kilburn
General & Membership Secretary Bob Bower
Treasurer Roger Hutchins
Editor, SHA Bulletin Clive Davenhall
Editor, SHA e-News & Registrar David Sellers
Editor, The Antiquarian Astronomer Ian Ridpath
Deputy Editor, The Antiquarian Astronomer Kevin Johnson
Survey Co-ordinator & Assistant Librarian Roger Jones
Publicity Officer Mike Leggett
Events Co-ordinator (vacant)

Appointed Officers

Archivist Mark Hurn
Online Editor Stuart Williams
Historical Records Officer Anthony Kinder

SHA COUNCIL MEETINGS

Future meetings of the SHA Council are scheduled as follows:

2014 Nov 22 Cambridge (Inst of Astronomy)
 2015 Feb 7 Birmingham (BMI)
 2015 Jun 6 Manchester (Godlee Observatory)
 2015 Sep 12 Manchester (Godlee Observatory)
 2015 Nov 21 London ? (TBA)

SHA PUBLICATIONS

SHA e-NEWS

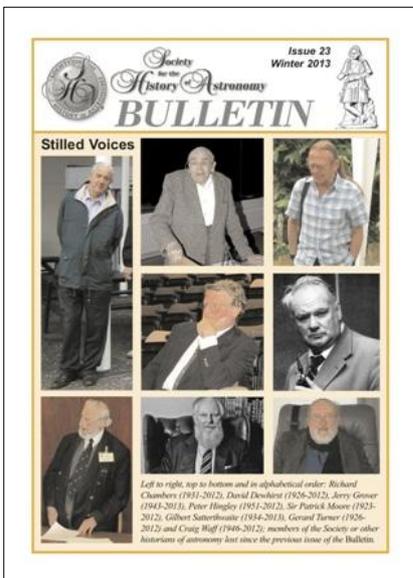
The next issue of the *e-NEWS* is due in early January 2015. If you know of any meetings, publications, exhibitions or events pertaining to the history of astronomy that might interest other members, please email brief details to the editor.



Back issues and guidelines for contributions are available from the [e-News web page](#).

SHA BULLETIN

Issue 24 of the SHA Bulletin should appear in the Autumn. It will contain two obituaries that had to be held over from issue 23 and all the usual material: news, meeting reports, articles, book reviews etc. Look out also for the winning essay in the 'Bookshop Competition' that was announced in the last e-News! Contributions to the Bulletin are most welcome, including letters which can be on any aspect of the



Society or the history of astronomy.

Issue 25 is planned for the end of the year.

Back issues and guidelines for contributions are available from the [Bulletin's web page](#).

It is usually prudent to check with the Editor before preparing items where duplication is a possibility (e.g. book reviews). Back Issues of the *Bulletin* (and its predecessor: *SHA Newsletter*) are now indexed on the Abstract service of SAO/ NASA. Enter SHAN as the 'Journal Code' at

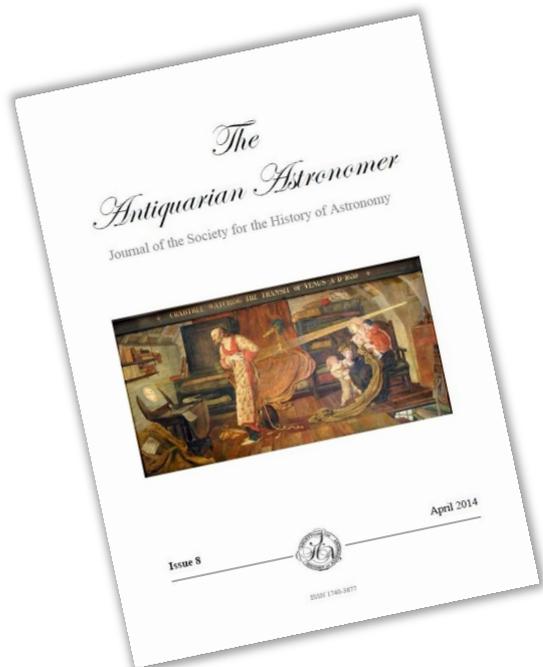
http://adsabs.harvard.edu/bib_abs.html

It is hoped that in the near future, scanned copies of the original articles will be accessible in the same way.

Clive Davenhall (newsletter@shastro.org.uk)

THE ANTIQUARIAN ASTRONOMER

Issue 9 of *The Antiquarian Astronomer*, the Society's refereed journal, is due to be published in mid-2015.



The editorship of the journal has now been transferred to Ian Ridpath and Kevin Johnson has kindly agreed to stay on as Assistant Editor. Members and others wishing to submit material for future issues of the *Antiquarian Astronomer* should contact Ian (at ian@ianridpath.com). [Guidance for authors](#) can be found on our website.

In future, as a result of a Council decision on 13 Sep 2014, any member having a paper published in the *Antiquarian Astronomer* will receive **free membership of the SHA for one year**. Non-members having a paper published will be offered a year's complimentary membership of the SHA.

LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

Recent additions to the SHA Library include:

Purchases

- Sanders, Robert H., *The Dark Matter Problem: A Historical Perspective* (2014)
- Mollan, Charles, *William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse: Astronomy and the Castle in 19th Century Ireland* (2014)
- Hoskin, Michael, *Caroline Herschel Priestess of the New World: Princess of the New Heavens* (2013)

Donations

Members will be gratified to hear that the family of our late colleague and former Chairman, Gilbert Satterthwaite, has very kindly offered to donate his library to the Society. Work to sort and catalogue this valuable acquisition will begin shortly.

A 74-page [catalogue](#) (Mar 2014) of the thousands of items held by the SHA Library is available on the Society website.



Birmingham and Midland Institute, home of the SHA Library

The [Sir Robert Ball Library](#) of the SHA is located at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS - just 10 mins walk from New St and Snow Hill stations.

If you are a member of the SHA and you wish to consult or borrow any items, please arrange a visit in advance with the Librarian: library@shastro.org.uk

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY TO AWARD 2015 MEDAL FOR HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY

The Jackson-Gwilt Medal is awarded for the development of astronomical instrumentation or techniques; for achievement in observational astronomy; or for achievement in research into the history of astronomy. Only once in every five Awards rounds are nominations for the Jackson-Gwilt Medal sought and considered for achievement in research into the history of astronomy. The 2015 round is one such. The SHA submitted a nomination before the 31 July closing date. The only previous winners for history of astronomy, since 1897, are F.R. Stephenson (1992) and Patrick Moore (1977).

The Jackson-Gwilt Medal, after the Gold Medal the oldest offered by the Society, derives from a gift by Mrs Hannah Jackson, a daughter of the well-known architect and former fellow, Joseph Gwilt. She gave the Society a capital sum which was to be used after her death for the award of a medal and a cash prize.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

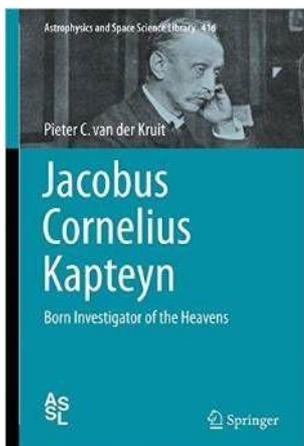
As announced in the previous issue of SHA e-News, Messrs Timothy N Horne Ltd (of Ipswich) - Chartered Accountants - were engaged to look at the Society's accounting practices. Although the SHA - a not-for-profit society - is not a registered charity and has no legal obligation to present audited accounts, the Council is anxious to ensure that the SHA's financial affairs are managed properly and efficiently.

The resulting report praised the 'careful and meticulous record keeping' of the Treasurer, but made some recommendations to improve the way the annual accounts are presented. These were considered at the September Council meeting and a decision was taken to introduce some changes and also to seek further guidance on tax matters.

The Council also decided to seek a volunteer non-Council member to do an independent check or audit of the accounts each year - in common with the good practice of many astronomical societies.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS NOTICED

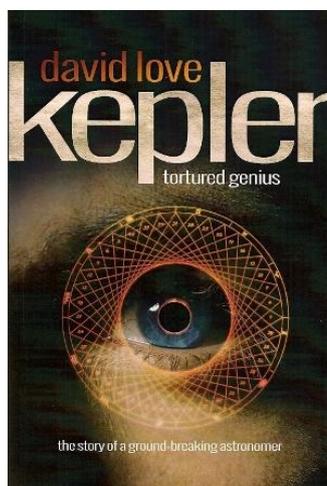
[Jacobus Cornelius Kapteyn](#) by P.C. van der Kruit (Springer), Dec.2014, pp.696 (hardback, £180), ISBN 9783319108759



Presents the life and work of the Dutch astronomer Jacobus C. Kapteyn (1851-1922), who contributed significantly to the cataloging and measuring of star parallaxes. Includes historical details on the major impact of World War I on his life and scientific achievements

All aspects of Kapteyn's life are discussed, from his birth in Barneveld, the Netherlands, to his death in Amsterdam, and his entire resume of scientific achievements in between. Kapteyn had some conflicts with others in his field, especially after the world became divided on how to handle scientific contributions from Germany post-World War I. Kapteyn's struggles and achievements are written against the backdrop of both the historical context of the world at that time as well as the scientific one.

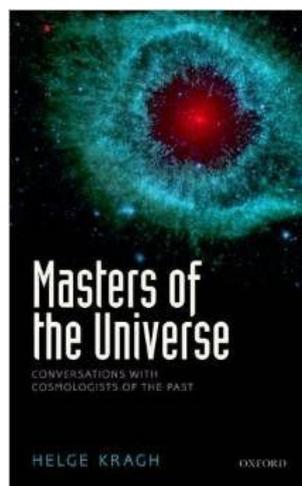
[Kepler: tortured genius](#) by David Love (Multiverse), Jul.2014, pp.268 (paperback, £6.95), ISBN 9780992953201



An illustrated introduction to some key ideas in astronomy by SHA member David Love, told through the story of the man behind some of its critical early discoveries. Kepler was a key figure in the history of astronomy, on a par with Copernicus, Galileo and Newton. The book explains Kepler's ground-breaking concept (now taken for granted) of a physical force, emanating from the Sun, that controls the motion of the planets in their orbits. We also read how

this permitted him to depart from the traditional constraint of circular motion and to arrive at his three laws of planetary motion. His life was full of tragedy and this forms the backdrop to the story. He constantly suffered from health problems. Eight of his children died in infancy or childhood. His first wife also died young. His mother was accused of being a witch, and narrowly escaped the death penalty. He was also frequently forced to flee from the religious persecution that was the defining feature of the age.

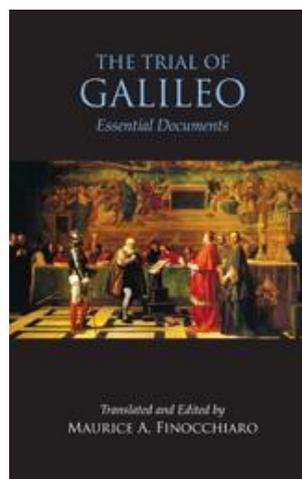
[Masters of the Universe: Conversations with Cosmologists of the Past](#) by Helge Kragh (Oxford University Press), Nov.2014, pp.304 (hardback, £25), ISBN 9780198722892



How did our modern picture of the universe come into being? Masters of the Universe tells this fascinating story in an unusual format that blends factual and fictional elements. It is based on a series of interviews that a fictional person conducted with leading astronomers and physicists between 1913 and 1965. Among

the interviewed scientists are giants such as Albert Einstein, Edwin Hubble, and George Gamow, but also scientists who are less well known today or not primarily known as cosmologists such as Karl Schwarzschild, Paul Dirac, and Svante Arrhenius.

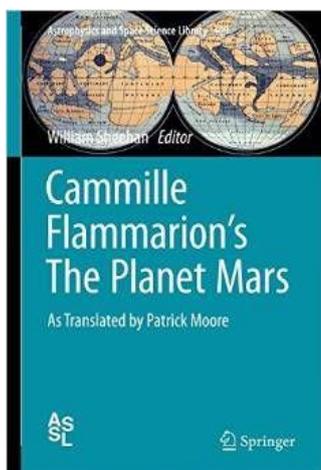
[The Trial of Galileo: Essential Documents](#) by Maurice A. Finocchiaro (Hackett), Sep.2014, pp.176 (paperback, £), ISBN 9781624661327



In 1633, the Roman Inquisition condemned Galileo as a suspected heretic for defending Copernicus's hypothesis of the earth's motion and denying the scientific authority of Scripture. This book draws upon Maurice A. Finocchiaro's earlier works, especially The Galileo Affair: A

Documentary History (1989), to provide a brief, new documentary history of Galileo's trial that aims to be simultaneously the most user-friendly and inclusive available.

Camille Flammarion's The Planet Mars, translated by Patrick Moore (ed. W. Sheehan) (Springer), Dec. 2014, pp. 544 (hardback, £117), ISBN 9783319096407



A classic book of Mars observation through 1892, originally written by the prolific French astronomer Camille Flammarion and translated to English by Sir Patrick Moore

Edited and with an introduction about the lives of Flammarion and Moore by neuroscientist

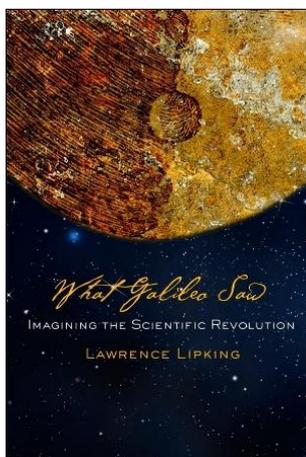
and amateur astronomer William Sheehan

Includes documents regarding the first three centuries of Mars studies, from the invention of the telescope up to the year of the original book's publication, 1892

Discusses why Mars has always been, and remains, the planet humans are most eager to explore

Includes the first-time publication of the poem 'Mars,' by Percival Lowell, written after he was mesmerized by Flammarion's book.

What Galileo Saw: Imagining the scientific revolution, by Lawrence Lipking (Cornell University Press), Oct. 2014, pp. 312 (hardback, £21.50), ISBN 9780801452970



The Scientific Revolution of the seventeenth century has often been called a decisive turning point in human history. It represents, for good or ill, the birth of modern science and modern ways of viewing the world. In 'What Galileo Saw', Lawrence Lipking offers a new perspective on how to understand what happened then, arguing that artistic

imagination and creativity as much as rational thought played a critical role in creating new visions of science and in shaping stories about eye-opening discoveries in cosmology, natural history, engineering, and the life sciences.

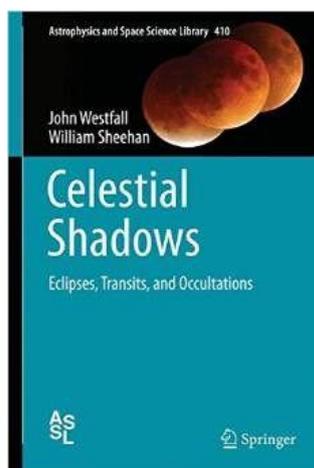
Cosmonauts: Birth of a Space Age, by Doug Millard (Science Museum), Sep. 2014, pp. 256 (hardback, £42.26), ISBN 9781857599022



For decades, the story of the world's first space-faring nation has been underplayed in the West. Now, for the first time, the remarkable account of Russia's space programme will be brought to light. This book accompanies an

exhibition at the Science Museum, London, which comprises objects that have never before left Russia, including rockets that launched the space age, actual craft that carried humans into space, the spacesuits, equipment and personal mementos of those who flew, alongside stunning artworks that articulated Russia's longing for space.

Celestial Shadows: eclipses, transits and occultations, by John Westfall and William Sheehan (Springer), Dec. 2014, pp. 656 (hardback, £117), ISBN 9781493915347



Describes how eclipses, transits and occultations are all interrelated and what we can learn from them

Relates the important discoveries made by observers of these events, ranging from evidence of satellites and asteroids, the dimensions of asteroids, unsuspected

rings of planets, the structure of planetary atmospheres and the discovery and makeup of extra solar planets

Provides vital information about when and where in the sky to observe eclipse events with either the naked eye, telescopes or binoculars. Also gives guidance on how to observe these phenomena.

[Essays on Medieval Computational Astronomy](#), by José Chabas & Bernard Goldstein (Brill), Nov.2014, pp.340 (hardback, £100), ISBN 9789004281745

During the Middle Ages and early modern times tables were a most successful and economical way to present mathematical procedures and astronomical models and to facilitate computations. Before the sixteenth century astronomical models introduced by Ptolemy in Antiquity were rarely challenged, and innovation consisted in elaborating new methods for calculating planetary positions and other celestial phenomena. *Essays on Medieval Computational Astronomy* includes twelve articles that focus on astronomical tables, offering many examples where the meaning and purpose of such tables has been determined by careful analysis. In evaluating the work of medieval scholars we are mindful of the importance of applying criteria consistent with their own time, which may be different from those appropriate for other periods.

[The Cosmic Microwave Background: How it changed our understanding of the Universe](#), by Rhodri Evans (Springer), Dec.2014, pp.208 (paperback, £31.99), ISBN 9783319099279

Rhodri Evans tells the story of what we know about the universe, from Jacobus Kapteyn's Island universe at the turn of the 20th Century, and the discovery by Hubble that the nebulae were external to our own galaxy, through Gamow's early work on the cosmic microwave background (CMB) and its subsequent discovery by Penzias and Wilson, to modern day satellite-lead CMB research. Research results from the ground-based experiments DASI, BOOMERANG, and satellite missions COBE, WMAP and Planck are explained and interpreted to show how our current picture of the universe was arrived at, and the author looks at the future of CMB research and what we still need to learn.

This account is enlivened by Dr Rhodri Evans' personal connections to the characters and places in the story.

SHA SURVEY OF ASTRONOMICAL HISTORY

Survey Update

The survey website now includes entries for 750+ astronomers and associated amateurs and

professionals. It also mentions more than 250 places of astronomical interest in the UK and Ireland.

The number of page views of the new Survey website, up to the beginning of September, was 5276.

SHA RESEARCH GRANTS

SHA Small Research Grants are now available for the period **1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015** and applications are solicited. These grants are made available to provide limited financial support for members' research.

For 2014/15 a total sum of £1000 has been set aside to provide research grants and members may submit applications for up to this amount. Grants may be used to support research in any aspect of the history of astronomy, broadly understood, and may be used to fund any expenses incurred while pursuing such a research project. The grants are available only to SHA members in good standing.

Links to the [application form and regulations](#) for applicants are available on the Society's Web site. Applications must be made using the application form. Appended to the regulations are some guidelines for completing the case for support that forms part of every application.

Applications will be judged by the SHA Awards Committee whose decision is final.

Successful applicants should note that items claimed for reimbursement must be accompanied by receipts to the full value of the item.

Completed applications should be sent to the SHA Chairman, Madeline Cox (chair@shastro.org.uk), preferably by e-mail, or if this is not practical, by post to: 4, Rutland Close, Warsop, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG20 0DY, UK.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

SHA members introduce themselves and their interests

In this issue: *David Love (Torquay, Devon)*

How did you find the SHA, and does it meet your needs?

I have been a member for some years. I found out about it by going along to the History of Science group run by George Wilkins as part of the Norman Lockyer Observatory Society's activities. I have to confess to not being a very active SHA member, because as well as being a regular contributor to George's group, I am also the secretary of the Torbay Astronomical Society, and this takes up a huge amount of time.

Do you have a special area of interest in the history of astronomy?

Yes, definitely. Ever since reading Arthur Koestler's *"The Sleepwalkers: A history of Man's changing vision of the Universe"* as a teenager many years ago, I have been fascinated by Johannes Kepler. My degree was in a mix of physics and astronomy, but I then worked as an accountant. I took early retirement largely to return to astronomy, and I have also spent some years writing a book on Kepler.

What did you discover about Kepler that enthuses you most?

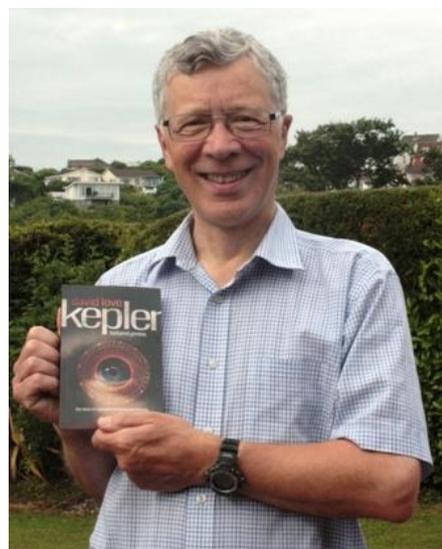
Kepler was a fascinating individual in so many ways. He was far more than just one of the first people ever to accept that the Earth went round the Sun. He was a pivotal figure, every bit as important as Copernicus, Galileo or Newton.

It was Kepler who first advocated the completely new concept (which today we take for granted) of a physical force, emanating from the Sun, that controls the motion of the planets in their orbits. He is also famous for the three laws of planetary motion that he discovered as a consequence.

Yet his life was tragic. He had an unhappy childhood. He constantly suffered from health problems. He fathered twelve children, eight of whom died in infancy or childhood. His mother was accused of being a witch, and narrowly escaped the death penalty. And he was frequently caught in the three-way dogfight between Lutherans, Catholics and Calvinists that was the defining feature of the age.

He didn't get everything right - far from it. He had a number of mystical ideas that were completely wrong. But it is the combination of a genuinely likeable personality with a life of tragedy, and the contrast between a deep insight into the nature of reality and a

hopelessly wrong mysticism that makes him such an



David and his new book on Kepler

endearing and fascinating character.

To write your book, did you actively research, or do you prefer being an armchair scholar?

Sitting at my desk studying Kepler's many works, and researching the period and places that he lived in could only take me so far. I also found it enormously useful to visit all the places where he lived and worked. For example, he was born in the small German town of Weil der Stadt, where there is now a Kepler museum. The staff at the museum willingly and enthusiastically gave me much valuable background information.

I also learned a huge amount from Kepler museums, monuments and inscriptions in Leonberg, Maulbronn, Tübingen, Graz, Prague, Benatky, Linz, Eferding, Kremsmünster, Ulm and Regensburg. It was, for example, quite exciting to discover that Kepler's house and school in Leonberg were still standing in the old town.

If you're thrown out of the library balloon, what one book would you grab to save, & why?

That's tricky. I have a huge collection of astronomy books, and it would be hard to pick just one. If I'm not allowed to take my own book (*Kepler: Tortured Genius*), then I think I might opt for *"The Canopus Encyclopedia of Astronomy"*, which is such a useful reference work.

WEBLINKS NOTICED

Scientific Instruments in the History of Science

The e-book "*Scientific Instruments in the History of Science : Studies in transfer, use and preservation*" is now available on the internet (freely) , at [the Museum of Astronomy and Related Sciences](#) (MAST) webpage.

The book was produced from a selection of papers presented at SIC 2012 (Rio de Janeiro).

Online Discussion Groups

[HASTRO-L](#) (The History of Astronomy Discussion Group) deals with matters arising in research and teaching of the history of astronomy in all cultures, whether Euroamerican, non-Western, or non-literate; all periods, ranging from prehistoric to contemporary; and using all approaches including social history, the philosophy of science, archeo- or ethno-astronomy, and/or detailed studies of the technicalities of a period's observational or mathematical astronomy. It has about 500 members in about 40 countries on all continents.

[RETE](#) is a mailing list devoted to the history of scientific instruments. It is open to all interested parties - curators, historians, students, collectors, and dealers alike. Subscribers can use it to ask questions about particular instruments or types of instrument, to announce exhibitions, meetings and conferences, to draw attention to printed or electronic publications, and so on.

SHA PUBLICITY STALLS

We are planning to publicise the SHA with a stall at the following events:

- **FAS Convention (11 October 2014)**, Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham
- **Starfest IV (1 November 2014)**, Colchester
- **Leeds Astromeeet (8 November 2014)**, The Clothworkers Hall and Foyer, School of Music, Leeds University)

If you will be at these events or live in the area and could spare an hour or two to help on the stall, it would be much appreciated. For further information or offers of help, contact the Publicity Officer, Mike Leggett (leggett189@btinternet.com).



SHA mobile publicity stand

OTHER MEETINGS NOTICED (non-SHA)

The Star of Bethlehem: Historical & Astronomical Perspectives (Netherlands)

Twenty specialists in the fields of (the history of) astronomy, ancient history, religion, society and culture, will discuss the various aspects of the Star of Bethlehem. [This Colloquium \(23-24 Oct 2014\)](#) in Groningen is particularly timely as 400 years ago, in 1614, Johannes Kepler published his book on this topic.

The Marginalisation of Astrology (Netherlands)

The Descartes Centrum for history of science of the University of Utrecht, in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy of the Radboud University at Nijmegen, will host an [international conference in Utrecht](#) on the subject of the marginalization of astrology in the early modern period (19-20 Mar 2015).

12th Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop - NDXII (USA)

The [Twelfth Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop](#) is scheduled for 24-28 Jun 2015 at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and will include a one-day trip to the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum in Chicago.

SHA MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS SUMMARY

13 of the SHA membership of 140 returned completed questionnaires. All of the respondents, without exception, considered that they were getting good value for their subscriptions. In general, the quality of the SHA's publications and meetings was viewed very favourably.

Most of the 13 had specific suggestions. Although the views of such a small portion of the membership are hardly likely to be statistically significant and properly representative of the membership as a whole, the following is a summary of the main points raised, grouped into specific topics. It should be noted that several of the items hereto are the opinions of individuals only.

BULLETIN

1. Should be issued twice per year and on a punctual basis.
2. Less research articles.

ANTIQUARIAN ASTRONOMER

1. More articles on university research topics.
2. More British/Irish history and less from overseas.
3. More professionally reviewed papers.
4. Full coverage of book reviews.

e-NEWS

1. Abstracts of upcoming talks and events should be included.

PUBLICITY

1. Members need motivating to help at SHA Stalls
2. Approach TV/Radio.
3. Ask local astronomical societies for their history.
4. Members should publicise the SHA at their local astronomical society.
5. Report on SHA activities should be submitted to the RAS for inclusion in A&G
6. Aim to break down the stereotype that only older people are interested in the history of astronomy.
7. SHA should emphasise the publicity of research, rather than meetings.
8. More SHA leaflets needed at RAS.

MEETINGS

1. Venues for annual conferences should include a wide selection of the UK regions, including the West Country, NE England, Wales and Scotland.
2. A joint meeting with the RAS should be explored.
3. More time needed for socialising.
4. Speakers should be actively encouraged to submit follow-up articles for the Bulletin/AA
5. Speaker schedules are fixed too far in advance – more fluidity needed.

OTHER

1. More outreach and schools activities needed.
2. Database needed of schools with specific astronomical/history connections.
3. Register of member's interested needed.
4. An oral history project should be started – older members should be encouraged to participate.

Bob Bower (General Secretary)

e-News CONTACT DETAILS

Communications relating to SHA e-News should be sent to the **Editor**: enews@shastro.org.uk

General communications to the Society should be sent to the **General Secretary** (Bob Bower): membership@shastro.org.uk

SUMMARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

2014 MEETINGS

Sat 11 Oct. FAS Convention, Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham (**SHA stall**)

Thu 23-Fri 24 Oct. The Star of Bethlehem: Historical & Astronomical Perspectives (Groningen, Netherlands)

Sat. 25 Oct. SHA Autumn Conference and AGM, at the BMI in central Birmingham. Further details are given elsewhere in this *e-News* .

Sat 1 Nov. Starfest IV, Colchester (**SHA stall**)

Sat 8 Nov. Leeds Astromet, The Clothworkers Hall and Foyer, School of Music, Leeds University (**SHA stall**)

2015 MEETINGS

Thu 19-Fri 20 Mar. The Marginalisation of Astrology (Utrecht, Netherlands)

Sat. 28 Mar. SHA/BAA Historical Section Joint Meeting, at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. Further details are given elsewhere in this *e-News*.

24-28 Jun. 12th Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop - NDXII (Indiana. USA)

Sat. 4 Jul. SHA Summer Picnic at Woolsthorpe Manor. Further details are given elsewhere in this *e-News*.

Sat 31 Oct. SHA Autumn Conference and AGM, at the BMI in central Birmingham
