

HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY IN ROUMANIA

A video-cassette about archeological relics in Roumania similar to those from Stonehenge was presented ; its title "*Le calendrier geto-dacique*" (made by **David Ren-Buc**).

HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY RESEARCH IN NEW ZEALAND : A BRIEF REPORT

Wayne Orchiston, *Carter Observatory, Wellington, New Zealand*

Research into history of astronomy is actively pursued and has witnessed a revival in recent years due primarily to two significant developments: -1- Restructuring of the Carter Observatory (the national Observatory of New Zealand) with the appointment of an astronomical historian (the author) to the staff in 1993 (Executive Director from 1994). In 1993 a Corporate Plan was prepared which identified an additional function of the Observatory, namely "To assist in the preservation of New Zealand's astronomical heritage", with a 1993-94 Plan assessing the Observatory's existing collection of archives and astronomical instruments, and developing an active Acquisition Policy. In 1994 was approved a "Research Strategy : 1994-2000" which included the History of Astronomy and appointed six new Honorary Research Associates, three with an interest in this field. -2- The inclusion of historical "keynote" or "invited" papers at a number of the Annual Conferences of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand since 1989, the selection of an "historical" theme for the entire 1994 Conference, an investigation on the formation of an Historical Section.

Historical research has focussed on international and on local astronomy: J.Hearnshaw (*The Analysis of Starlight* and a history of photometry) ; W. Tobin (French astronomers and their instruments) ; W. Orchiston (Southern Hemisphere astronomy, amateur and professional astronomy (including radio astronomy) in Australia, Skjellrup of South Africa). Recent research includes studies of international projects, notable telescopes, local developments in photoelectric photometry, aspects of professional astronomy, biographies of notable amateur astronomers, histories of various astronomical societies, of their observing sections, review papers on the history of New Zealand astronomy and entries for the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*.

Although there are less than 20 individuals involved, many research projects are underway with exciting prospects for the future: studies of the 1874 and 1882 transit of Venus parties, Skey and his liquid mirror telescope of the 1850s ; the enigmatic Professor Bickerton and his "Partial Impact" Theory ; the pioneering Southern Hemisphere radar meteor work during the 1950 and 60s ; the international contributions by expatriate New Zealanders, a national oral history project on New Zealand astronomy beckons.

Discussion

E. Griffin : I would like to congratulate you on the "clean sweep" which you have brought into effect at Carter Observatory. Would that some of the large, more traditional institutes in other parts of the world take note ! Small is certainly beautiful in your case.