

"Photographic Giants of Palomar," J. S. Fassero and R. W. Porter. Westernlore Press, Los Angeles. 1947, 60 pp., 30 illus., 8 1/2"x11". \$1.60. This book contains 18 drawings of the 200-inch telescope and its various parts. There are also two drawings of the 48-inch Schmidt, a close-up of Porter with an 8-inch Schmidt, and a number of excellent astronomical photographs. All illustrations are full-page and have from one paragraph to a full page of description. All are suitable for framing. Simple language is used throughout.

A person who is interested in telescopes could spend hours studying these drawings and figuring out the purpose and method of operation of each part. One wonders how an artist could have made such detailed cut-away drawings, in perfect perspective, before the telescope was completed. ---Lyle T. Johnson

QUORUM SET AT ONE-FOURTH the total number of regular members in good standing, by new amendment to by-laws. Heretofore only 15 were required and vote was carried by simple majority, which made it possible for eight persons to commit the entire society.

OCCULTATIONS

Morgan Cilley and Edgar W. Woolard

Feb.	Star	Magnitude	Time EST	Hour	Angle
15	301	6.8	8:34 PM	4	W
16	434	6.9	11:24 PM	6	W
18	714	6.2	9:17 PM	2 1/2	W
19	869	7.2	9:13 PM	1 1/4	W
21	1211	6.2	11:55 PM	2	W

All occur on the dark edge.

NEW MEMBERS

Roy W. Loan, Jr., 1916 Calvert Street N.W. (9) AD-4944  
Herbert B. Alvord, 4703 Hunt Avenue, Chevy Chase, Md.  
Wisconsin 6575

\*Donald Leroy Miller, 4314 10th St. N.E. (17) MI-3330  
Grote Reber, P.O. Box 4868, Cleveland Park Station.  
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STAR DUST  
National Capital Astronomers  
Washington, D. C.

February 1948

Vol. 5, No. 6

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Date FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 7 "Solar and Radio Storms," A. H. Shapley of the Bureau of Standards. 8:00 p.m. National Museum.
- 12 5-inch night, 8 p.m. NCA telescope at Naval Observatory, with Carroll Slemaker. If cloudy at 7 p.m., postpone until February 28.
- 14 Junior night at the 5-inch. Carl Werntz.
- 21 Discussion group, 8 p.m. foyer of Commerce Department Auditorium, 14th St. N.W. Bob Wright.

Mondays ) Telescope making, R. M. McLellan, instructor,  
Wednesdays) 6:30 to 9:51 p.m. room 235, McKinley  
Thursdays ) High School. Check on Feb. 12 and 23.

"SOLAR AND RADIO STORMS" will be the topic of A. H. Shapley, Physicist, Bureau of Standards. Disruption to shortwave radio communication, a practical problem to the radio engineer, is often associated with outbursts on the sun. Typical solar eruptions are illustrated in the motion picture film to be shown, "Explosions on the Sun." One eruption is as large as the sun itself. Consecutive observations of the amount of ionization in the earth's upper atmosphere, shown as a motion picture, give a vivid picture of radio storms, since the radio waves used in long distance communication are reflected from these ionized regions. Some methods of forecasting radio storms from solar observations are discussed.

5-INCH NIGHT had its first foreclosure by clouds Jan. 21st. The next is scheduled February 12 to see Mars, Saturn, Uranus. If the sky is cloudy at 7 p.m., observation will be postponed until the 28th at 8 p.m.

JUNIOR NIGHT was favored by better skies. Next one will be February 14 at 8 p.m.

DISCUSSION GROUP drew an attendance of 27 to hear Mr. Benfer discuss the method of coating lenses, illustrated with photographs, and to see the spectroscope he built. He also had slides he had taken in various lights, the lights themselves, and a projector, gratings, etc. Unusually good. Next discussion Feb. 21.

TWENTY NCAs risked the weather to enjoy the dinner in Silver Spring on January 20. The treat of the evening was the moving picture of the Windhams' auto trip last summer along the St. Lawrence and vicinity. Also he showed a sound film, "America the Beautiful," of scenic wonders throughout the country.

AT MEETING OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS January 13, it was decided that if a junior member needs to use the 5-inch telescope in connection with a definite project, he may submit his request in writing to Mr. Lyons, outlining his program and period of time. Each request, and character of the junior will be considered and if approved, he will be allowed access to the key. This special arrangement may be terminated at any time.

THE 4-INCH REFRACTOR discussed at the December meeting has been purchased by Mr. Samuel Young, N.C.A. He reports that it is a fine instrument, and has generously offered to let the society use it upon occasion or even buy it at the price he paid.

ASTRONOMERS WANTED by Naval Observatory. Young men, high school graduates with driver's license, interested in astronomy, to take temporary jobs, probably for one year. Work will be in the field within 150 miles of D.C. taking observations for use in selecting future site of Observatory. Salary, approximately \$1800 base pay plus \$6 per diem. Apply to the Observatory.

BOOKS  
COPIES OF "THE OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK for 1948" published by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, were eagerly sought at the last meeting. Mr. Robinson now has a few more for the nominal sum of 25¢.

"Astronomy," Freeman D. Miller; Bellman Publishing Co., Boston, 1947, 32 pp. \$.75. This little booklet is No. 72 of a series of Vocational and Professional Monographs, and is written by an Associate Professor of Astronomy at the University of Michigan. After a short sketch of the development and content of the field, a number of aspects of astronomy as a profession are outlined. These include: the nature and organization of the astronomer's work; employment opportunities; personal qualifications and training; organizations and publications; and advantages and disadvantages of an astronomical career. ---R. J. Hinckley

"Sun, Stand Thou Still: the Life and Work of Copernicus the Astronomer," Angus Armitage; Henry Schuman, pub., New York, 1947, 210 pp. \$3.00. The author (F.R. A.S.) is Lecturer in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at University College, London. He frankly terms it "a somewhat experimental book," intended not only to present an adequate account of Copernicus and his achievements, but to serve as a broad introduction to astronomical history. The text is written in extremely simple style and organized in very short chapters. The first twelve chapters comprising Part I sketch the development and status of astronomy before Copernicus. The twenty-one chapters of Part II deal with the Man and his Work. They present the known details of his life and activities, and describe the basic ideas in his historic work, "De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium." The last twelve chapters of Part III are headed, "The Triumph of the Copernican Theory." This section describes the scientific impact of the Copernican system in the century following publication and the stages in its establishment down to the age of Newton. ---R. J. Hinckley