

COMMISSION C3

HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY

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TRIENNIAL REPORT 2015-2018

1. Introduction

IAU Commission C3 (History of Astronomy) started in 2015 as a natural continuation of the previous IAU Commission 41 for History of Astronomy which was established in 1948 and which was extremely successful in supporting research on the history of astronomy, organizing and sponsoring workshops and conferences, promoting research collaborations, forming specialist working groups and fostering the publication of members' research.

2. Developments Within the Past Triennium

Members of the Commission focused on organizing and attending history of astronomy conferences, conducting research and publishing their results.

International conferences organized during the triennium included:

- Exploring the History of Southeast Asian Astronomy: A Review of Current Projects and Future Prospects and Possibilities, 30 November–1 December 2015, Ao Nang, Thailand
- Ninth International Conference on Oriental Astronomy (ICOA-9), 14–18 November 2016, Pune, India
- International Conference on the History of World Calendars and Calendar-Making, 29 November–2 December 2016, Yecheon and Seoul, South Korea
- The Second International Conference on Astronomy on the Silk Road, 6–9 July 2017, Urumqi, China
- Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East, 13–17 November 2017, Yerevan, Armenia
- The Second International Conference on SE Asian Astronomical History, 28–29 November 2017, Mandalay, Myanmar

In addition, Commission members organized a number of national workshops and symposia, and in 2017 ran a 5-day international training workshop in Thailand on “Field Techniques in Ethnoastronomy”. This was organized by the NARIT/UNESCO International Training Centre in Astronomy.

Members also published many research papers and a number of books during the triennium; some of the latter are listed below in the References.

3. Closing Remarks

The Commission is actively involved in the organizing of the Centennial Symposium of the International Astronomical Union, which will be held during the IAU General Assembly in August 2018 in Vienna.

The Commission also will hold its own business meeting and a workshop on the history of astronomy during the IAU GA.

During the 2018–2021 triennium, in October 2018 the Commission will co-organize an international workshop on transmission of astronomical knowledge on the Silk Road with the Taihu Forum in Beijing.

In addition, new Working Groups will be established, the newsletter will be resurrected, and the Commission's website will be updated.

Xiaochun Sun (*C3 President*)
Wayne Orchiston (*C3 Vice-President*)
David Valls-Gabaud (*C3 Secretary*)

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