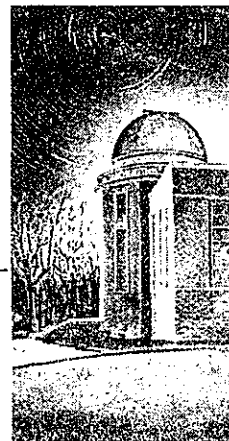


ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB

INCORPORATED

1 January 1979



Dear Club Member,

The Christmas season 1978 has rushed by. Already it's a new year. Our club year moves rapidly into its fifth month. Each meeting is interesting.

To refresh our memories about several activities, here are a few. During the summer we joined the Macon club for a picnic and observing session there. Astronomy Week in Georgia was a success. (Let's do it again!) We have adopted a new set of Bylaws. (Thanks Committee. Annabelle Close-Chairman.) We've voted to host the 1979 SERAL Convention in mid-June. We received a 20" mirror.

At Bradley Observatory we see new faces. The two-some is Hyde-Staal. Dr. Bob Hyde joined the Agnes Scott College staff this past summer. He'll be glad to let you peer through the 30 inch. Mr. Julius Staal has installed his Spitz projector in the Planetarium. With pride and enthusiasm he'll put on a show for you following the meeting. Welcome to both of them.

We continually are thankful to Agnes Scott College for use of the Observatory for meetings.

Our W.F. Barber, Jr. Observatory in Villa Rica is open. Open for Observing Alert Weekend star parties. Open for work to complete the Warm-Up Building. Open for contributions for materials and future observing equipment. (The Close 16" needs a mount and drive, the 10" needs accessories and the 8" Maksutov deserves a pier stand.) Open to you to come out to observe under its dark skies.

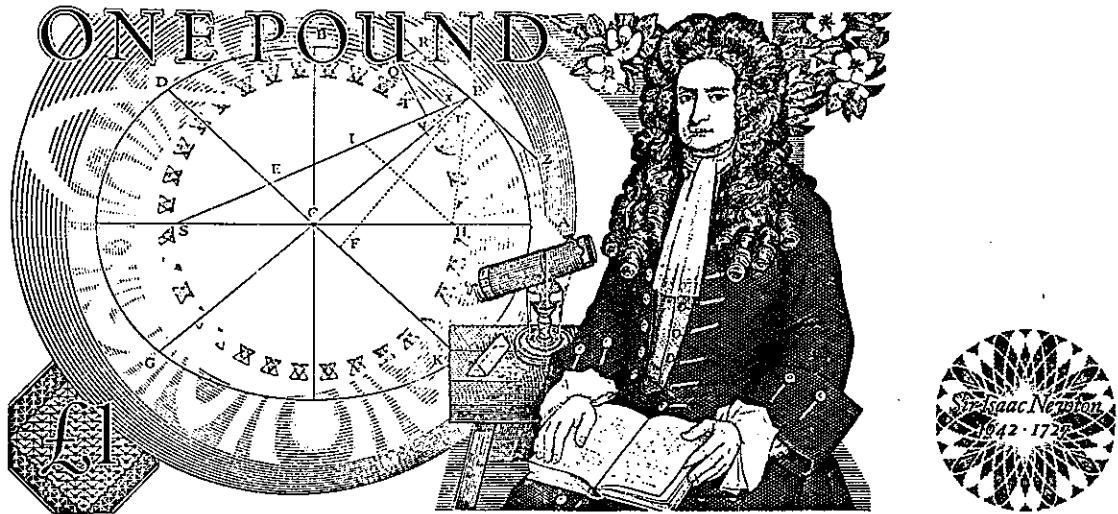
I personally thank each of you for support of the Observatory Project. Those of you who worked at the site during 1978, I appreciate your help.

I seek continual input from each member. From you come ideas needed for a growing club. Welcome you new members. You show that astronomy interest in the Atlanta area is strong. Spread the word about the AAC at school and work.

Gail and I wish you and your families a Happy 1979. May clear, less polluted night skies, enhance your viewing this year.

See you at each Club meeting this year,

David Sperring
President



This month's illustration is the reverse of a British banknote which I purchased from Sarah Fried who had just returned from a trip to England (as a matter of fact, she had only been back for two hours!). As you can see, the Bank of England has chosen to honor Sir Isaac Newton, Britain's greatest scientist. Have you ever noticed that in the United States coins, currency and statues always honor politicians (who authorize these memorials)? How many statues have you seen that honor authors, poets or mathematicians? It makes you wonder just what our values really are.

Our January meeting will feature a new astronomer at Fernbank Science Center: David Dundee. His title will be: A TOUR OF THE PLANETS. He will center this discussion on the recent unmanned space probes which are adding so much to our knowledge of the solar system. Mr. Dundee holds degrees in astronomy from the University of Arizona and Columbia University. He recently participated in the Infrared Photo Survey of the Northern Sky at Kitt Peak. The meeting will be held on Friday, January 19, at Agnes Scott College's Bradley Observatory. Festivities will begin at 8:00 pm.

Our Astro-Aid Committee will sponsor a short meeting which will begin about twenty minutes after the conclusion of the regular meeting. Bill Calder will speak on meteorites. If you have an object which you suspect might be a meteorite, bring it along for positive identification.

Progress is being made on the June convention of the South East Region of the Astronomical League, which will be held in Atlanta. If you are interested in helping to prepare for this interesting event, contact David Speering. Don't forget to set aside time to attend this meeting which will be a golden opportunity for contacting other amateurs from this area. These conventions are never dull!

In the past few weeks I have been contacted by several people who are interested in purchasing used astronomical telescopes. At the present time I am not aware of any instruments for sale. If you have equipment which you would like to sell, why not advertize it in this bulletin? There is no charge, and our results on these ads have been excellent.

James A. Albee