



*Antique
Telescope
Society, Inc.*

AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

**THE VINTAGE OBSERVATORY:
THRIVING IN THE 21st CENTURY**
Antique Telescope Society Thematic Workshop
May 2-4, 2008
Cincinnati Observatory Center, Cincinnati, Ohio
SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

Imaginative and nontraditional opportunities and means for historically significant astronomical observatories to thrive in the 21st century is the theme of a workshop sponsored by the Antique Telescope Society (ATS) and hosted by the Cincinnati Observatory Center (COC) in Cincinnati, Ohio. The workshop, to be held May 2-4, 2008, will provide an opportunity for those charged with the care of observatories and telescopes built mainly before World War II to examine common issues and share practical solutions. Workshop participants will discuss novel approaches to astronomical education, publicity, fundraising, preservation, restoration, astronomical research using vintage instruments, historical documentation, and similar operational topics.

This workshop is especially timely for any observatories now planning events coinciding with the 400th anniversary of the invention of the telescope (see <http://400yearsoftelescopes.org/> and http://www.iau.org/fileadmin/content/IBs/IB101_small.pdf and <http://www.inventionofthetelescope.eu>). Moreover, 2009 will be the International Year of Astronomy (<http://www.astronomy2009.org/>), celebrating the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first turning of a telescope towards the heavens. Books and public-television shows (at least one filmed partly at COC) highlighting the major anniversaries are in development. This workshop will provide additional ideas for heightening public interest in telescopes and vintage observatories.

Audience: In addition to ATS members, those who would find this networking workshop of value include: directors/overseers of pre-WWII astronomical observatories; astronomy teachers, professors, and informal educators; museum curators or other custodians of astronomical instruments and books; members of amateur astronomy societies or local historical associations; preservationists concerned with maintaining local cultural heritage; professional restorers of historic astronomical instruments and the buildings that house them; astronomers; historians; planetarium directors; historical reenactors and historical story-tellers; and board members, trustees, public outreach officers, fund-raisers, and donors for the restoration and continued operation of older telescopes or observatories.

Location: All events will be held at the beautifully restored Cincinnati Observatory. Program includes a behind-the-scenes tour of the building, grounds, and instruments of the 19th-century observatory, plus observing (weather permitting) through the 11¼-inch Merz & Mahler refractor (largest in the United States when completed in 1845) and the 16-inch Alvan Clark & Sons refractor (still the largest refractor in Ohio since its completion in 1904).

Displays: Publishers are invited to display books relevant to history of astronomy, telescopes, telescope makers, observatories, preservation efforts, and other pertinent subjects. Although there will be no charge for display space, publishers are encouraged to consider donating book(s) for door prizes.

Registrants are invited to prepare and submit free-standing posters of any type (poster papers, photographs of restoration projects, etc.) that can be set up on easels, which will be available in all the

public areas. Although there will be no locked large display room for large antique telescopes or other instruments, registrants may wish to bring (at their own risk) small hand-held antique instruments of direct relevance to the theme of restoration or innovative opportunities.

Cost: In recognition of the fact that small to medium-sized institutions, plus observatories in distress, are likely to have lean budgets, every effort has been made to minimize costs. Registration fee includes *four full meals*, an ice cream social, and a reference binder. Registration costs are partially offset by a modest grant from the Cincinnati Observatory Center, plus volunteer effort by its Friends of The Observatory (FOTO). The workshop's travel agent co-organizer is willing to help arrange car-rental car-pools and the sharing of hotel rooms. We regret that no resources are available to help support travel.

Reference binder: *Registrants are invited to submit materials*—historical articles, brochures, DVD/CDs, bibliographies, etc.—about his/her individual vintage observatory, telescopes, and instrument makers for inclusion in a reference binder to be given to each registrant (*submissions, in either print or electronic form, are due to the papers co-chairs by **Friday, April 11***). To facilitate continued networking after the workshop, the reference binder will include complete contact information of all attendees. Registrants also will be e-mailed a list of regional vintage observatories, which they may contact independently to make individual arrangements for side trip visits before or after the workshop.

Weather: Early May falls within the spring rainy season in southern Ohio. Temperatures may range from 45°F to 75°F, although the typical range is 55°F to 65°F.

Talks. More than half the papers to be presented have been accepted. A number of slots still exist, so the *abstracts deadline has been extended to **Friday, April 11*** (see call for papers). Works in progress are welcomed. Sessions will be videotaped to aid in the preparation of later proceedings.

We especially encourage those affiliated with instruments or observatories in distress to lay all challenges, concerns, and obstacles before the compassionate assembled wisdom during the Saturday night "Observatory 'Makeover'" session, so that many heads and hearts can offer concrete assessment, recommendations, and contacts relevant to extend help for specific situations.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

(Session titles, based on abstracts received as of 1/20/08; subject to later revision)

Friday, May 2

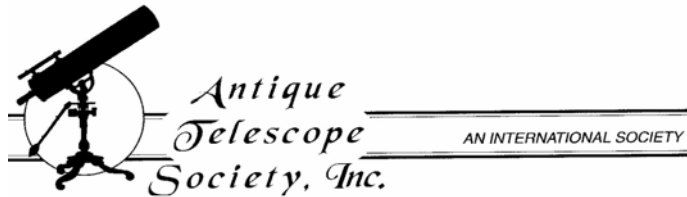
- 5:00-7:00 PM Pre-registration check-in; setting up of poster displays; socializing
- 6:30-9:30 PM Ice Cream Social (featuring Cincinnati's famous Graeter's ice cream)
- 6:30-7:00 PM **Thinking Outside the Dome: Imaginative Public Presentations**
- 7:00-8:00 PM Session I. **Welcome to Cincinnati Obs. and the Antique Telescope Soc.**
- 8:00-9:00 PM **Walking Tour of the Cincinnati Observatory**
- 9:00-10:30 PM Stargazing (weather permitting) through the 1845 and 1904 refractors

Saturday, May 3

- 7:00-8:00 AM Breakfast; pre-registration check-in (continued); socializing
- 8:00-9:30 AM Session II. **Stories of Cautionary Tales and Limbo**
- 10:00-11:30 AM Session III. **Stories of Success**
- 11:30-12:15 PM Lunch (also including some of Skyline's famous Cincinnati Chili)
- 12:15-2:00 PM Session IV. **Rescuing an Observatory: Where to Start; 1. The Instruments**
- 2:30-4:00 PM Session V. **Rescuing etc.: 2. Buildings, Grounds, Location, Landmarking**
- 4:30-6:00 PM Session VI. **Rescuing etc.: 3. Money, Publicity, Education, and Outreach**
- 6:00-7:00 PM Dinner: BBQ (chicken and ribs) catered by Cincinnati's Montgomery Inn
- 7:00-9:30 PM **Observatory "Makeover" Open-Mike Public Forum: Help for Distressed**
(expert panel and passionate floor discussion devoted to direct help for specific cases of observatories in need of first aid: registrants charged with the care of bringing an observatory back to life are encouraged to bring visuals)
- 9:30-10:30 PM Stargazing (weather permitting) through the 1845 and 1904 refractors

Sunday, May 4

- 7:30-8:30 PM Breakfast; socializing
- 8:30-10:00 AM Session VII. **Rescuing etc.: 4. Documenting an Observatory's History**
- 10:15-11:30 AM Session VIII. **Roundtable: Burning Questions—What Was Not Discussed?**
(key workshop points? wish lists? next steps?)
- 11:30 AM Removal of poster displays; farewells



***SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT*
BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**THE VINTAGE OBSERVATORY:
THRIVING IN THE 21st CENTURY
Antique Telescope Society Thematic Workshop
May 2-4, 2008
Cincinnati Observatory Center, Cincinnati, Ohio**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Between about 1800 and 1940, some 200 private and institutional observatories housing telescopes and other astronomical instruments of various sizes were founded across the United States and other nations. Many were still functioning well into the 1960s and 1970s. In the latter third of the 20th century, however, a great number—including some prominent institutions with large exquisite instruments—fell into disuse and were decommissioned or wholly demolished. Today, scores more have fallen into disrepair and are in danger of succumbing to the bulldozer as their owners consider other more lucrative uses of the land they occupy.

Yet, the fact that most older telescopes are precision instruments fashioned by world-class opticians—and were optimized for visual observing with the human eye—yields a ready-made opportunity for education and public outreach to educational institutions from preschool to graduate school, amateur astronomical societies, and other community organizations. Imaginative fundraising for restoration and upkeep has ranged from modest charges for public observing nights and lectures to novel solutions such as renting the beautiful premises for conferences, movie shoots, weddings, historical tours, and other special events.

The thematic workshop is jointly hosted by the Antique Telescope Society and the Cincinnati Observatory Center.

The **Antique Telescope Society**, founded in 1991, is an international organization. Recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, its purpose is to unite colleagues interested in antique astronomical telescopes, binoculars, books, and related items; and to promote the memberships' interests in astronomical history and discovery, the history of optics, and the preservation and use of astronomical instruments through stewardship and education. The principal activities of the ATS are publishing a journal, organizing meetings, providing assistance with the restoration of instruments, hosting shows and displays, preserving historical data, and guiding collectors. More information can be found at <http://oldscope.org>.

The **Cincinnati Observatory Center (COC)**, also a 501(c)(3) organization, promotes the study, practice, and enjoyment of astronomy among a broad audience. It also assists professional and amateur astronomers, schools and universities in furthering their educational efforts on behalf of astronomy and related STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines. While fulfilling this mission, the COC maintains the integrity and heritage of an historic 19th century observatory, including relevant artifacts illustrating the history of astronomy and its relationship to broader fields of science throughout the years. The fully functional 1845 Merz & Mahler and 1904 Alvan Clark & Sons telescopes are the backbone of this unique educational center and are used by students of all ages almost every clear night. More information can be found at <http://www.cincinnatiobservatory.org>.

Local Organizers:

Cincinnati Observatory Center

3489 Observatory Place
Cincinnati, OH 45208

Craig Niemi, Executive Director, (513) 321-5186 x1
observatory@fuse.net

John E. Ventre, Historian, (513) 321-5186 x4

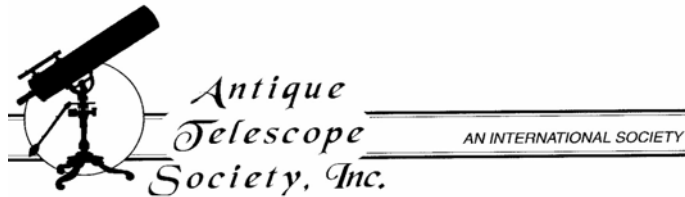
Papers Co-Chairs:

Trudy E. Bell, M.A., t.e.bell@iecc.org
(216) 221-5008

Craig B. Waff, Ph.D., (937) 255-5095
cbwaff@sbcglobal.net

Travel/Logistics/Accommodations Coordinator:

Valerie Niemi, Prestige Travel, (800) 783-9859



SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT
CALL FOR PAPERS—EXTENDED

**THE VINTAGE OBSERVATORY:
THRIVING IN THE 21st CENTURY**
Antique Telescope Society Thematic Workshop
May 2-4, 2008

CALL FOR PAPERS—DEADLINE EXTENDED TO APRIL 11

We invite proposals for papers on topics relevant to creating innovative opportunities for vintage astronomical observatories to thrive in the 21st century. On the theory that the highest form of preservation is regular use, the workshop's theme is *keeping history, visual astronomy, and education alive and self-sustaining in today's high-tech age, especially by imaginative or nontraditional approaches*. Papers on practical how-to and sharing lessons learned (whether successes or failures) are especially welcome.

Topics might include—but are *not* limited to—such subjects as: *where to start* when confronted with a dilapidated vintage telescope and observatory; *seeking funding*: whom to approach and how; *preserving* documents and artifacts; *integrating* a vintage observatory within the local community; *using* vintage observatories and history of astronomy as *educational resources* to help teachers achieve STEM standards and benchmarks; *documenting* the history of an observatory and its restoration; *orchestrating* novel publicity, outreach, and fundraising (e.g., weddings, reenactments); *working* with local government leaders, businesspersons, preservationists, and community activists; *finding* resources for historically authentic restoration of observatories and telescopes; *modernizing* vintage instruments (boon or bane?); *declaring* a vintage observatory an historic landmark (pros, cons, how-tos); knowing what you have: *researching* the life and works of major and minor 19th- and early-20th-century telescope-makers; and *planning* celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the telescope using vintage observatories.

Encouraged for the "Observatory 'Makeover'" discussion session are two types of illustrated case studies: 1) restoration efforts, especially ones that are ongoing and that may now be facing crucial choices, and 2) dilapidated or shuttered observatories in current need of first aid, advocates, resources.

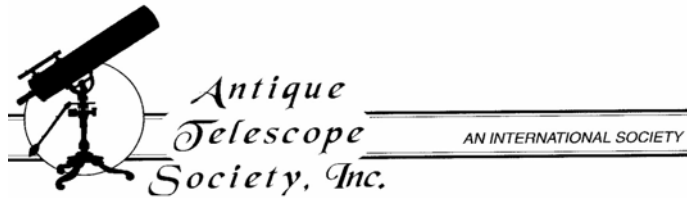
Papers specifically concerning the vintage observatory in the 21st century should be planned for about 15 to 20 minutes in length. "Observatory Makeover" case studies and histories of individual observatories should be planned for about 10 minutes. To encourage idea-sharing among registrants, all papers will be followed by substantial active group discussion.

Standard A.V. equipment will be provided; please list any other special needs. Sessions will be videotaped to aid in the preparation of later proceedings.

Deadline for the submission of an abstract (about 250 words in length) and a resume or other biographical information (up to one page) has been **extended to Friday, April 11, 2008**. Early applications would be helpful. Please submit abstract and C.V. (preferably e-mail) to the papers co-chairs:

Trudy E. Bell, M.A.
(science journalist and ATS member; former managing editor, *Journal ATS*)
1260 Andrews Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107, USA
t.e.bell@ieec.org

Craig B. Waff, Ph.D.
(Air Force Research Laboratory staff historian and ATS member)
2340 Mallard Lane, Apt. 4
Beavercreek, OH 45431, USA
cbwaff@sbcglobal.net



REGISTRATION FORM
Please return to:
 Cincinnati Observatory Center
 ATS Thematic Workshop
 3489 Observatory Place
 Cincinnati, OH 45208 USA

THE VINTAGE OBSERVATORY: THRIVING IN THE 21st CENTURY
Antique Telescope Society Thematic Workshop
Cincinnati Observatory Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, May 2-4, 2008

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (information for the networking directory to be given to all participants):

Name (one registrant per form): _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone W: _____ H: _____ C: _____

Fax _____ e-mail 1. _____ 2. _____

Organization _____ Position Title _____

What I hope to get from the workshop: _____

I will bring a poster display (Y/N) _____; I will contribute material for reference binder (Y/N) _____

Full-workshop registration fee includes a reference binder, *four full meals*, and the ice cream social.

PLEASE SPECIFY ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____

<u>Registration Fees:</u>		Number	Amount
Full workshop: ATS members/nonmembers	\$99.00	()	\$ _____
—OR—			
One-day Registration Fees:			
Friday (Ice cream social, telescopes viewing)	\$10.00	()	\$ _____
Saturday (Three meals, telescope viewing)	\$60.00	()	\$ _____
Sunday (Breakfast)	\$15.00	()	\$ _____
Reference binder (not included with 1-day reg.)	\$14.00	()	\$ _____
Optional extras:			
Friday ice cream social, registrant's guest ticket	\$10.00	()	\$ _____
Saturday night BBQ, registrant's guest ticket	\$30.00	()	\$ _____
			TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to "COC" and note in memo "ATS-TW 2008." Limited to 50 registrants, so please register as early as possible to guarantee a space (ideally before March 31, 2008). **Final registration is due by Friday, April 18**. Walk-in registration would be on a strictly space-available basis.

Workshop registration does not include hotel, air, or ground transportation. Hotel and travel reservations can be made through workshop co-organizer Valerie Niemi at Prestige Travel: call (800) 783-9859, or e-mail **Valerie@prestige-travel.com**. *For hotel and transportation booked through Prestige Travel, Valerie can arrange car-rental car-pools and splitting of hotel rooms.*

I'd like to share a room/rental car with (name) _____

Cincinnati Logistics

Regional Airports:

Greater Cincinnati International Airport (CVG)—closest airport, but sometimes more expensive to fly into
Includes Delta, Northwest, US Airways, American, United

Dayton International Airport (DAY)—may be less expensive than flying into CVG, but a 1- to 2-hour drive away
Includes Delta, Northwest, US Airways, American, United, Air Tran

Ground Transportation:

Compact cars average \$23/day plus gas, tax, insurance.

Hotels near the Cincinnati Observatory Center in order of distance from COC; travel times assume little traffic
(For hotels and travel booked through Prestige Travel, Valerie can help arrange roommates and carpools.)

Howard Johnson 5410 Ridge Ave, Cincinnati OH 45213 (513) 631-8500

Average Room Rates: \$53-\$60

Howard Johnson to COC 3 miles / 8 minutes
CVG to Howard Johnson 21 miles / 26 minutes
DAY to Howard Johnson 63 miles / 66 minutes

Quality Inn 4747 Montgomery Rd, Cincinnati OH 45212 (513) 351-6000

Average Room Rates: \$76.49-\$85.50

Quality Inn to Cincinnati Observatory Center 3.5 miles / 11 minutes
CVG to Quality Inn 20 miles / 29 minutes
DAY to Quality Inn 61 miles / 64 minutes

Vernon Manor 400 Oak St, Cincinnati OH 45219 (513) 281-3300

Average Room Rates: \$119-\$135 (where ATS registrants stayed for 2005 convention)

Vernon Manor to COC 5 miles / 15 minutes
CVG to Vernon Manor 16 miles / 23 minutes
DAY to Vernon Manor 63 miles / 70 minutes

Red Roof Inn 5900 Pfeiffer, Cincinnati OH 45242 (513) 793-8811

Average Room Rates: \$52-\$62

Red Roof Inn to COC 10 miles / 16 minutes
CVG to Red Roof Inn 30 miles / 37 minutes
DAY to Red Roof Inn 57 miles / 63 minutes

Crowne Plaza 5901 Pfeiffer, Cincinnati OH 45242 (513) 793-4500

Average Room Rates: \$119 & up

Crowne Plaza to COC 10 miles / 16 minutes
CVG to Crowne Plaza 30 miles / 37 minutes
DAY to Crowne Plaza 57 miles / 63 minutes

Wingate Inn 4320 Glendale-Milford Road, Cincinnati OH 45242 (513) 733-1142

Average Room Rates: \$119 and up

Wingate Inn to COC 11 miles / 20 minutes
CVG to Wingate Inn 30 miles / 38 minutes
DAY to Wingate Inn 55 miles / 61 minutes

Valerie Niemi, Travel Consultant **1-800-783-9859**

Prestige Travel, Inc 513-985-1025
9859 Montgomery Rd. 513-793-2819 fax
Cincinnati, Oh 45242 Valerie@prestige-travel.com

Valerie can also advise on Cincinnati area attractions (zoo, riverboat rides, museums [art, history, fire, underground railroad, natural history, and in Dayton, aviation] theatres, libraries, Cincinnati Reds, parks, etc.)