Heritage Committee: Interim Report to the Board, November 2016

Member	Term	Affiliation
Elizabeth Griffin *Chair*	2015–18	DAO/NRC
William McCutcheon	2016–19	UBC
Nathalie Martimbeau	2015–18	
Eugene Milone	2015–18	University of Calgary
David Pantalony	2014–17	Science Curator, CSTM, Ottawa
John Percy	2014–17	University of Toronto
Lee Robbins	2015–18	University of Toronto
Tim Robishaw	2015–18	DRAO/NRC
Randall Rosenfeld	2015–18	University of Toronto
Ian Shelton	2014–17	(University of Toronto)
David Turner	2014–17	Saint Mary's University
Gordon Walker	2014–17	UBC and UVic
Jasper Wall	2015–18	University of British Columbia

Comittee activities have continued to focus on two projects:

(1) *Book on Canadian radio astronomy.* The development of the book originally planned and commenced by the late Richard Jarrell, on "The History of Canadian Radio Astronomy", took a major step forwards last July, when a lively 2-day Workshop, hosted by the DRAO and largely organized by Committee member Tim Robishaw, was attended by a capacity audience. It was followed up by an informal meeting of all those interested in contributing to the book. The 30+ audio tapes of the many recorded interviews of radio astronomers which Rich had conducted have now been fully transcribed, and made available online to the team of authors. We must acknowledge the indispensable assistance towards these preparations by Mrs Martha Jarrell.

(2) *CASCA Archive.* The creation, installation and management of a physical archive of CASCA materials by Committee member Randall Rosenfeld has been taking shape. We are indebted to the RASC for permission to make use of space and equipment that are formally part of its own archives in Toronto. The transfer of materials from the temporary site at RMC to the location of the RASC archives was carried out in October, and was assisted by the CASCA Secretary and by Board Member Kristine Spekkens.

Heritage plate collections. We are also pleased to report that the DAO has successfully negotiated a new arrangement to continue and extend the digitizing of its own major collection of photographic spectra. A fresh contract will commence in the New Year.

Committee Needs and Priorities

(1) Modest funding (a few $K) to reimburse research costs, where needed, in the preparation of Rich Jarrell's book, *The History of Canadian Radio Astronomy.*

(2) Creating a database of professional Canadian Astronomers. It should include routes to archives of (for instance) CVs, lists of students supervised, etc., for the service of history or obituary writers.

(3) Hosting (in 2018, at the DAO) an international Workshop on the management of astronomy's worldwide heritage of photographic plates and associated materials. Outcomes will include guidelines regarding (a) digitizing spectra and images to a quantitative standard, and (b) preparing searchable electronic databases of observatory plate archives.