

Heritage Committee: Report to the Board, May 2016

Present Membership

	Term	Affiliation
Elizabeth Griffin <i>Chair</i>	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

Committee Activities

Membership of this Committee, like that of CASCA itself, extends from coast to coast to coast, and each member remains active in his or her own particular realms of expertise. The previous report (November 2015) brought up to date members' individual activities and publications, so this report will highlight just two items: (1) the Committee's involvement in, and commitment to, the writing of the book planned by the late Richard Jarrell, "The History of Canadian Radio Astronomy", and (2) the Committee's lead in establishing a physical home for CASCA's physical archives.

1. *Book, "History of Canadian Radio Astronomy"*. As reported earlier, five Committee members plus two others are tackling the challenge of reconstructing this title along the lines planned by the Committee's former Chair and longest-serving member, Professor Richard Jarrell, whose untimely passing in late 2013 was before actual writing had commenced. A substantial archive of over 30 tape-recorded interviews with radio astronomers has been checked, edited and transcribed, and placed on-line for chapter authors to access. We acknowledge the considerable efforts by Wall and Rosenfeld to complete this vital preliminary preparation, and would like to note also the tireless assistance of Martha Jarrell, Professor Jarrell's widow.

While the book that is now being planned will make use of the extensive notes, interviews and letters which Professor Jarrell had prepared, and which Mrs Jarrell has been reading and sorting, it will contain in addition a final section on developments since the end-date of 1994 which Rich had planned. From his notes it is clear that he saw things moving towards an impasse then, and that the outcome could only be negative without major new developments. An addition describing how that corner was in fact turned will complete the story; material for it will emerge from a Workshop on "The history of radio astronomy" which Robishaw is organizing at the DRAO in July (and which several of the authors will attend).

2. *CASCA Archive*. CASCA has accepted the offer of Committee member Rosenfeld (archivist for the RASC) to act as Archivist for CASCA, and to run the operation from the RASC's office in Toronto. Negotiations regarding the transfer of various caches of CASCA's physical archives are under way.

Committee Needs and Priorities

- (1) Setting up and arranging a physical CASCA archive.
- (2) 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*.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.