



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Sproul Observatory Astronomers Photoprints

NMAH.AC.0251

David E. Haberstich

1987

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Sproul Observatory Astronomers Photoprints
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0251
Date:	1916-1975
Creator:	Swarthmore College. Sproul Observatory (Swarthmore, Pennsylvania: 1916) (Collector) Gaustad, John E. (Director, Sproul Observatory)
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Physical Sciences (Collector)
Extent:	1 Boxe
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection of group portraits donated by Sproul Observatory. Group portraits include participants at American Astronomical Society and I.A.U. [International Astronomical Union] meetings, as well as several other taken at Johns Hopkins University, Swarthmore College, and an autographed photo of Roy W. Delaplaine at a 24-inch refractor telescope. The photographs were accumulated in the files of the Sproul Observatory, Swarthmore College, over a period of years. They form a visual record of astronomers and attendees at astronomical meetings from 1916 to 1975.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by John E. Gaustad, Director of Sproul Observator at Swarthmore College, in 1987.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Physical Sciences (now Division of Medicine and Science) to the Archives Center.

Processing Information

Collection processed by David Haberstick, 1987

Preferred Citation

Sproul Observatory Astronomers Photoprints, 1917-1975, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

The donor did not supply background information with this collection, but apparently these photographs were accumulated and housed in the files of the Sproul Observatory at Swarthmore College over a period of years. They constitute a visual record of astronomers and attendees at astronomical association meetings from 1916 to 1975.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains seventeen silver gelatin photoprints and one key diagram identifying most of the persons shown in a group photograph. Most of the pictures are group portraits of participants at American Astronomical Society and I.A.U. (International Astronomical Union?); also, group photographs taken at the Johns Hopkins University and Swarthmore College, and an autographed photoprint of "Roy M. Delaplaine at 24 inch refractor [telescope]..." Most of the group portraits were probably intended as records of the astronomical association meetings for the use of the organizations and participants.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series chronologically.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Astronomers
- Astronomy -- 20th century
- Observatories
- Portraits, Group -- African Americans
- Telescope -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

- Panoramas

Names:

- American Astronomical Society (1916-1975)
- Cincinnati Observatory (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- Columbia University
- Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire)
- Delaplaine, Roy W. (astronomer)
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Physical Sciences
- Northwestern University. Dearborn Observatory (Evanston, Illinois)

Swarthmore College. Sproul Observatory (Swarthmore, Pennsylvania: 1916)
Yerkes Observatory (Williams Bay, Wisconsin)

Places:

Berkeley (Calif.)
Cincinnati (Ohio)
Evanston (Ill.)
Hanover (N.H.)
New York (N.Y.)
Oaxtepec (Mex.)
Pasadena (Calif.)
Williams Bay (Wis.)

Container Listing

Box 1, Item 1	Group photograph, 1916 - 1916 Notes: Mounted, with imprinted caption: "American Astronomical Society, Sproul Observatory
Box 1, Item 2	Group photograph by White Studio, New York, 1924 August 3-6 Notes: Handwritten caption: "American Astronomical Society, Thirty second meeting/ Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.
Box 1, Item 3	Photograph of six standing men Notes: ident. in ink on verso: "Dr. R. W. Wood, Johns Hopkins Univ / 2. Dr. Howard [C.] McClenahan, Franklin Institute[,] Phila / 3. Sir J H Jeans[?], Cambridge Eng / 4. J A M[,] Swarthmore / 5 Pres. Aydelotte[,] Swarthmore / 6. Dr. Swan[?] Bartol Foundation[,] Swarthmore / May 20, 21[,] 1931".
Box 1, Item 4	Photograph of large group of men and women, dated in pencil "Dec 1936." Notes: Photographer's signature illegible.
Box 1, Item 5	Group photograph, 1938 December 29-30 Notes: Mounted and matted, with typed label on mat: "American Astronomical Society, sixty first meeting/Columbia University, New York City
Box 1, Item 6	Group photograph Notes: Typed label: "American Astronomical Society, sixty sixth meeting / Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wisconsin, September 7-9, 1941". Rubber stamped on verso: "H. A. Kincaid / The Lake Geneva Photographer / Williams Bay, Wis."
Box 1, Item 7	Group photograph Notes: Ident. in ink on image: "American Astronomical Society / Seventyfirst [sic] meeting / Cincinnati Observatory, Cincinnati, Ohio / 1943 Nov 5-7".
Box 1, Item 8	Group photograph Notes: Ident. in ink at bottom: "American Astronomical Society / Seventy seventh meeting, Dearborn Observatory / Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois / 1947 Sep 3-6". Rubber stamped on verso: Evanston Photographic Service, 1854 Sherman Ave., Evanston, Ill.
Box 1, Item 9	Astronomer "Roy W. Delaplaine at 24 inch refractor [telescope] Notes: 1947 Sep 3" (ink on image). Matted, with cutout for subject's autograph. Still framed, with label from Burrison Art Galleries, 1713 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 3.
Box 1, Item 10	Panoramic group photograph

Notes: Imprinted: "Meeting of A.A.S. and A.S.P. / June 28 July 1, 1948.
Pasadena, California."

Box 1, Item 11	Two men in academic dress Notes: Matted. Autographed in white ink on photograph: "Peter van de Kamp" and illegible signature, "Swarthmore 6 June 1960"
Box 1, Item 12	Group photograph Notes: Credited to University of California. Pencil on verso: "I.A.U. Berkeley / 1961 Aug 24".
Box 1, Item 13	Group photograph Notes: Matted, with typed label imprinted at bottom of image: "I.A.U. SYMPOSIUM NO. 17 VISUAL DOUBLE STARS / BERKELEY CALIFORNIA AUGUST 11-12 1961".
Box 1, Item 14	Panoramic group photograph Notes: Mounted, with imprinted label at bottom: "IAU COLLOQUIUM 33, OAXTEPEC, MEXICO 16(X) 1975
Box 1, Item 15	Large group photograph, undated Notes: 16 x 20", Rubber stamped on verso: "Deegan photo / 384 Nassau Street / Dublin Phone 71468
Box 1, Item 16	Key diagram for group photograph Notes: Identifying names of 217 out of 222 figures. This key may not correspond to any of the photographs in this collection.
Box 1, Item 17	Panoramic group photograph Notes: , with imprinted label: "American Astronomical Society 64th Meeting / Wellesley College Sept. 11- 14 1940". In wooden frame with label from S. Trachtenburg, 923 Passyunk Ave., Phila., Pa.
Box 1, Item 18	Panoramic group photograph, 1946 February 1-2 Notes: 8" x 30", with label imprinted in image: "American Astronomical Society 74th Meeting / Columbia University, New York City