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Papers on all aspects of astronomical history are considered, including studies that place the evolution of astronomy in political, economic and cultural contexts. Papers on astronomical heritage may deal with historic telescopes and observatories, conservation projects (including the conversion of historic observatories into museums of astronomy), and historical or industrial archaeological investigations of astronomical sites and buildings. All papers are refereed prior to publication. There are no page charges, and *in lieu* of reprints authors are sent a pdf or Word camera-ready version of their paper.

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and should be followed carefully when preparing manuscripts. Papers and book reviews should be e-mailed to the Editor, Dr Wayne Orchiston (Wayne.Orchiston@jcu.edu.au), or posted to him at

Centre for Astronomy,
James Cook University,
Townsville,
Queensland 4811,
Australia.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This nineteenth century photograph of Sydney Observatory (courtesy of the RAS Archives) shows (from left to right) the dome which housed an 11.5-in Schroeder refractor, spare transit shutters, the shutters associated with the 6-in Troughton and Simms transit telescope, the time ball tower, and the Government Astronomer's residence. Sydney Observatory was founded in 1858, primarily to provide meteorological data for the colony of New South Wales and to supply a local time-service. The Observatory owned a number of astronomical clocks and chronometers and these were regulated by means of transit telescope observations of 'clock stars'. Each day the time ball was dropped from the top of the mast at precisely 1pm, thereby providing an accurate time-service for local citizens, businessmen and ships in the port. The elevated location of the Observatory was purposely chosen so that it could be easily seen from the port and from Sydney town. The research paper by Roger Kinns on pages 97-108 in this issue of *JAH*² compares and contrasts the time ball apparatus at Sydney Observatory with that found at the Lyttelton Time Ball Station near Christchurch, New Zealand, and places these two institutions in an international context.