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The *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage* (JAHH) was founded in 1998, and from 2007 has been produced three times yearly, in March, July and November. It features review papers, research papers, short communications, correspondence, IAU reports and book reviews.

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 so that they can generate their own reprints on demand.

For a copy of the 'Guide for Authors' please email Associate Professor Wayne Orchiston (Wayne.Orchiston@jcu.edu.au). Intending contributors should carefully follow these guidelines when preparing manuscripts. Papers and book reviews should be e-mailed to Associate Professor Orchiston, or posted to him at: Centre for Astronomy, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland 4811, Australia.

Enquiries concerning review copies of books, advertising space, and back numbers of the *Journal* also should be directed to Associate Professor Orchiston.

In 2012 JAHH will become an electronic journal that can be downloaded free of charge from the SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System (ADS) web site (<http://www.adsabs.harvard.edu>) and its 12 mirror sites around the world. Consequently, from 2012 there will be no annual subscription to this journal, except for those whose would like to continue receiving paper copies. The electronic version of the journal will continue to be produced three times a year (in March, July and November) and posted on the ADS web site, but the hard copy of Volume 15 (2012) will only be produced as a single bound publication at the end of the 2012 calendar year and will then be mailed out to those who have subscribed to it. Associate Editor, Professor Hilmar Duerbeck, will oversee the production of these hard copies, and a subscription rate of €50 (about US\$75), including postage and shipping, will apply both to individuals and institutions and must be paid directly to him (i.e. subscriptions will no longer be available through subscription agencies). If you would like to arrange a hard-copy subscription for 2012 please email Professor Duerbeck (hilmar@uni-muenster.de) prior to 1 July 2012 to make the necessary arrangements.

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## COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This shows a painting of Sir John Herschel (1792–1871) by Edward Alfred Chalon. By the time Herschel wrote his *Treatise on Astronomy* in 1833 sufficient evidence had accumulated to indicate that the Sun could not be "... the most magnificent habitable globe" that his father, Sir William Herschel, had described in 1801. Nevertheless, John was happy to endorse his father's belief that the Sun had a large solid nucleus, which was visible through the openings (sunspots) in its exterior layer or 'luminous ocean'. John also believed that a layer of clouds separated this 'luminous ocean' from the solid interior. For more about the views of the two Herschels and other noted astronomers on the prospect of life on the Sun, see the paper by Professor Emeritus Michael J. Crowe on pages 169-179 in this issue of the journal.