

EDITORIAL

With this issue the *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage* enters a new era, one of the e-journal, as from now on *JAHH* will only be available in electronic form. Issues are scheduled to appear in March/April, July/August and November/December and will be posted on the ADS web site and its mirror sites around the world, so that anyone can download it free of charge. This should greatly increase the international visibility of the journal.

When we first announced the intention to turn *JAHH* into an e-journal we also hoped to produce a limited number of annual print copies at the end of each calendar year for those without easy access to the web, and the late Hilmar Duerbeck, one of the two Associate Editors of the journal, was going to oversee this operation, manage the subscriptions, and arrange the printing and mail out of copies. With Hilmar's sudden demise this will no longer be possible, at least in 2012, but we may be able to implement this scheme in 2013 if current plans come to fruition.

These plans involve a new home for the journal in a new country, forced on us by the decision of James Cook University to close down its entire astronomy program at the end of this year. Thus, I have spent much of the past six months overseas, not only carrying out a range of history of astronomy research projects, but also looking for a new job.

It is partly because of this extensive international travel, and partly because of the unexpected death of my trusty old laptop which I have used since 2005 to produce this journal on that the current March/April issue is so late. When I went to Thailand in February the issue was almost ready to post on ADS, and then the laptop died while I was in Japan. When I transferred the March/April issue from a memory stick to a PC kindly loaned me by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan I found that all of the papers had reformatted so I spend considerable time revising them and everything was finalised by the time I returned to the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) in Chiang Mai, but when I then transferred the journal from my memory stick to a PC kindly loaned me by NARIT I was appalled to find the whole issue again needed reformatting. So for the third time in as many months I was forced to reassemble the journal, only to discover when I returned to James Cook University two weeks ago and transferred it to the laptop I am currently using that the entire issue once again needed reformatting. This has probably been the most frustrating and demanding time of my life, and I have only been able to see the task through thanks to the fine support provided by our two Associate Editors, Professor Joe Tenn and Professor Richard Strom (who kindly agreed to accept the post following Hilmar's unexpected death). However, I must take full responsibility for the delay in 'publishing' this issue, and for this I can only apologise.

I also feel that it is only fair to warn everyone that production of the journal could remain problematic during the remainder of this year as I wind down my James Cook University operations and spend increasing time overseas—in China, Japan, Korea and Thailand, and possibly France and India—attending conferences and conducting research. My hope is that I will be able to move permanently to a new position in one of these countries in January 2013, by which time the future of the journal will be assured and stability will then return. But until that time, life may be difficult for me, and for the journal.

As soon as there is a firm commitment by another institution to take over responsibility for the journal we will announce this by way of a new editorial. Meanwhile, I apologise again for the delay in producing this issue of *JAHH*, and I can only hope that you all find much of interest in the papers that are included here.

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Editor, *JAHH*