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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 so that they can generate their own reprints on demand.

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COVER IMAGES

These images relate to observations of the 3 June 1769 transit of Venus from Tahiti, the result of a British expedition arranged by the Royal Society. As discussed in the paper starting on page 35 in this issue, three different observing sites were established in Tahiti and nearby Moorea, and eleven different observers successfully recorded the transit. Yet most of their observations were ignored when the official account was written up, and all of the associated records have disappeared. Shown here are: a telescope by Short, similar to the two taken on the voyage; Cook's drawings of the transit, and a view of Fort Venus, Tahiti, where Cook, Green and Solander were based.