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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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The views and opinions expressed in this Journal are not necessarily those of the Editors or the Editorial Board.

COVER IMAGE

This shows a Persian painting that is in the Theodore M. Davis Collection in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Titled "Two Old Men in Discussion Outside a Hut", the painting was signed by Alī Qulī Jubbahdār, a prominent seventeenth century Persian painter, and it lists a date of 1085 (in the Islamic Calendar; which equates to a date of CE 1674–1675). The scene has two men, probably astronomers, discussing the sky, where there is what looks like a comet, or a fireball with a long trail. When the painting was catalogued the celestial object was identified as a comet, but as Ramesh Kapoor points out in his paper on pages 273–293 in this issue of JAHH there was no notable naked eye comet recorded in that year. Ramesh therefore considers whether the object in question may be a bright meteor, or a bolide. Although this is possible, he believes it is more likely that the artist intended to depict a comet, and one that he had seen earlier and clearly remembered. A possible candidate would be the Great Comet of 1668 (C/1668 E1). This reached maximum magnitude (between 1 and 2) on 8 March, and later that month its tail had grown to more than 30°, so it certainly was an impressive naked eye object.