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EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues,

Without doubt, the most important news is that *JAHH* now has a new website, which you can visit at www.jahh.org. This site includes guidelines for paper submission (which now is all electronic), our ethics and malpractice statement, the Editorial Board, and of course access to all back issues. For the time being, back issues will remain on the NARIT website until they have all been transferred to the new site (and of course you can continue to access them through the ADS web site). We have details about impact factors, and *JAHH* is now being reviewed by Scopus for inclusion in their databases with a new standardised metric. During its history, the journal has moved from institution to institution in Australia and Thailand. The new site provides a permanent, central home for *JAHH* with an easy to remember URL, regardless of which institution might host it in the future. We are extremely grateful to Associate Editor Dr Duane Hamacher for developing and financing the new site. He has launched a GoFundMe campaign, which has already raised \$303.64. Duane will put this into a fund for *JAHH*. You can contact us at jahh.editor@gmail.com.

In another key development, *JAHH* now maintains a social media profile on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AstronomyHeritage/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/AstroHeritage>). We are indebted to Irma Valladares for all the hard work she has put into achieving this. Irma manages the Facebook page and makes daily posts, which are widely shared and liked. The page now has about 500 followers. We also thank Mel Miles for her work in managing the *JAHH* Twitter account in 2018; soon this also will be managed by Irma. We invite those of you on Facebook and Twitter to like and follow ours pages!

After the personal traumas of 2018 it was pleasing to enter a new *JAHH* year on a positive note. This is best reflected in the size of this issue of *JAHH*: almost 200 pages. Having the time, energy and right frame of mind to assemble *JAHH* made this possible, but there also were those surplus papers from last year that we were unable to include in the December 2018 issue. Here they all are, along with a number of other contributions. And so we have 12 papers in this issue of *JAHH*—a new record—although the number of books reviews is markedly down on the record number included in the December 2018 issue.

Readers will note that we have decided to introduce two new concepts, both of which are on display in this issue of *JAHH*. Firstly, sometimes we will lead off an issue with a biography review of a notable astronomer, when possible published close to a notable birthday, and secondly, from time to time we will publish previously-unpublished important—or at very least interesting—astronomical manuscripts.

On this occasion our chosen 'Birthday Boy' is Professor Govind Swarup, who conveniently turned 90 on 23 March, not long before this issue of *JAHH* was due to be 'published'. Govind is arguable India's leading astronomer, and he is also one of the world's foremost radio astronomers. Although I have known him for decades and we have worked together on international committees and on historical research projects, I found that examining his major achievements and then presenting them all together in the one review paper was inspirational. But I could not prepare such a paper by myself, which is why there is a co-author, Sudhir Phakatkar, who has worked with Govind day-in day-out at the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics in Pune and can provide a personal local perspective. We hope that you also enjoy reading about Govind's lifetime contribution to Indian and international radio astronomy, and even if your own research field is not radio astronomy that our paper will still provide you with ample food for thought. As the opportunity arises, we look forward to including more of these biographical reviews.

As indicated above, the second innovation is the publication of selected astronomical MSS. The MS that we publish here is an account of the Great Comet of 1807 (C/1807 R1) that was written by the Acting Astronomer of Madras Observatory, and was sent by him to the Royal Astronomical Society. Professor Ramesh Kapoor came upon this MS in the course of a long-term project about Indian cometary astronomy and approached *JAHH* with a view to publishing it (subject to RAS approval). We thought this was a good idea.

The fact that Govind Swarup is an Indian astronomer and that the 1807 Comet MS also relates to Indian astronomy is co-incidental, but by publishing these papers in *JAHH*, along with two papers on Indian cometary astronomy (by Ramesh Kapoor) and a paper on Indian ethnoastronomy (by Ganesh Halkare and colleagues), this merely reinforces the key role that India has played—and continues to play—in the history of astronomy. This meshes well with *JAHH*'s policy of documenting the history of astronomy world-wide rather than focussing only on key developments in Britain, Europe and North America.

We also aim to make *JAHH* a major publication outlet for papers on the history of radio astronomy, and ethnoastronomy, which is partly why two of the four Associate Editors (Drs James Lequeux and Peter Robertson) are experts in this field, while another Associate Editor, Dr Duane Hamacher, is an authority on ethnoastronomy. Meanwhile, happily my own research includes both fields.

Finally, I join the Associate Editors (Drs Clifford Cunningham, Duane Hamacher, James Lequeux and Peter Robertson) in welcoming you to the first issue of *JAHH* in 2019. We hope you enjoy reading the papers herein, and that you like the new format of the journal (with reversed print for headings and Abstracts and different shades of blue for colour masks).

Professor Wayne Orchiston
Editor