committee. Credit for this result is mainly due to Henk van de Hulst, who stated repeatedly that the way one may justify pure research is by providing outstanding quality, a paradigm that is of great importance to his followers.

As an administrator, scientist and teacher, Henk held firm beliefs. He was more open to discussions than many other Dutch celebrities of his generation. He listened to other people’s opinions, but he remained resolute and mostly made his own final decisions. He was a strong, physically fit man, level-headed but with a good sense of humour. He was a philosophical person, with an ever-present analytical streak. When talking to him, one always had the feeling that the conversation was simultaneously unravelled and evaluated at a higher and more abstract level. Personal conversations, or discussions in committees, were always characterized by depth and simplicity. The best strategy with him always was the direct approach.

Precise metaphors
Henk had no desk, only a table, which was almost always empty. There were some documents in a corner, mostly loose sheets, under a stone, which clearly had some importance for him. Other than that, just some pencil stubs. Quality was certainly not in the paraphernalia. Often in conversations, precisely targeted metaphors occurred, frequently drawn from other trades and crafts such as carpentry or sailing. He often showed his appreciation of his conversation partner, but sparingly. A graduate student expressed his astonishment at realizing that he recognized this need for balance in himself, and that this was more than a personal conversations, or discussions in committees, were always characterized by depth and simplicity. The best strategy with him always was the direct approach.

Donald Robert Barber 1901–2000
Fellow of the RAS, prolific observer and talented photographer.

Donald Barber was a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society for 63 years even though he did not join the Society until he was 36, shortly after he had been appointed as a night assistant at the Norman Lockyer Observatory at Sidmouth, Devon. While at the Observatory he carried out a long-term spectrophotometric programme of observation of the colour-temperatures of early-type stars. He was Superintendent of the Observatory from 1956 until his retirement in 1961. He continued to work on the analysis of the data after his retirement and the resulting monograph received high praise in the foreword by Prof. H H Plaskett of Oxford University, who wrote: “It is a remarkable achievement that Mr Barber, single-handed, has brought to a successful conclusion a piece of work comparable to that of Greaves and his colleagues with at their disposal all the resources of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.” In 1987 he was awarded an honorary degree of Master of Science by the University of Exeter.

Barber was born and educated in Exeter. He won scholarships to Hele’s School and to the Royal Albert Memorial College, which became the University College of the South West of England. He was awarded an external degree in physics by the University of London in 1925 and he then carried out research on instrumentation at the College, on which he published a series of papers over the next dozen years. In
1928 he was seconded to the Scale-Hayne Agricultural College at Newton Abbot to organize a department of physics. He was subsequently appointed as a visiting lecturer and he acted as consultant to the Advisory Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that was based at the College. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Physics in 1938.

Barber's interest in astronomy had been stimulated by lectures in astrophysics given at the University College by Sir Norman Lockyer's son, Dr W James S Lockyer, who was then the director of the Norman Lockyer Observatory, and by the annual summer visit by students to the Observatory. In the spring of 1936, James Lockyer invited Barber to become a night assistant, but unfortunately Lockyer died suddenly before Barber took up his appointment. Barber undertook a variety of observational work and he was alert to unusual phenomena such as “sky darkening associated with a severe thunderstorm”, which was described in Nature.

In 1939, he undertook a variety of observational work and he was alert to unusual phenomena such as “sky darkening associated with a severe thunderstorm”, which was described in Nature in 1938, and the spectacular aurora that occurred on 25/26 January 1938.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones, who visited Sidmouth regularly as a member of the Research Committee of the Observatory, successfully nominated Barber for a Martin Kellogg Fellowship tenable at the University of California. He spent a year at the Lick Observatory in 1940/41 and the results of his pioneering visual photometric research on the light of the night-sky were published as Lick Observatory Bulletin no. 50 and elsewhere. He spent the next four years on wartime research in the Photographic Physics Division of the Kodak Research Laboratories at Harrow.

On his return to the Norman Lockyer Observatory in September 1945 he was made Chief Assistant and he produced a steady stream of papers from then until 1963 on an even wider range of topics. Some continued the spectroscopic programmes of the Observatory, while others followed up his Lick Observatory and wartime work. He also published several papers on photographic techniques. This work was later recognized by his election as a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society and as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society. His early involvement in biophysics and his interest in quasi-cyclic phenomena showed itself in some unusual papers, such as a contribution to Nature on the “singing pattern of the common chaffinch.”

Barber had an interest in both photography and railways from his youth; his first published photograph was of a train derailment at Exeter and he maintained his interests in astronomy, meteorology and photography. He continued to walk regularly until a series of falls in 1998 led him to move to a retirement home. He remained mentally active, however, until just before his death on 20 August 2000; this came unexpectedly as it had appeared that he would live to celebrate his 100th birthday in 2001.

George A Wilkins.

The following is a selection of books recently added to the Library. They are listed as briefly as possible with conventional abbreviations and the first author/editor(s) only listed to save space. Before visiting the Library to consult or borrow these Fellows are advised to check that they are available. Gratpiul thanks are extended to all the donors listed; if no donor’s name is given the item was purchased.

Recent gifts and purchases for the Library

OBITUARIES

Deaths of Fellows

Dr D Scott

Born 10 December 1918

Elected 13 May 1966

Died 2000

Prof. M Waldmier*

Elected 9 April 1954

Died 26 September 2000

*Associate


Rees M, Just Six Numbers; the deep forces that shape the Universe, QB 500, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1999, ISBN 0 297 84297 8


*Associate


Dingus B L et al (eds), GeV-TeV Gamma Ray Astrophysics Workshop, QB 471, American Institute of Physics, 2000, ISBN 1 56396 938 6


Niemeyer J C and Truran J W (eds), The Fifth Compton Symposium, QB 474, American Institute of Physics, 2000, ISBN 1 56396 932 7


Rees M, Just Six Numbers; the deep forces that shape the Universe, QB 500, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1999, ISBN 0 297 84297 8


Election of Fellows and Junior Members

Fellows

The following were elected as Fellows of the Society on 8 December 2000:

Mr M M Bisi, Blaenau, Gwent.
Ms E M M Boisseau, London.
Mr M P Collins, Nottingham.
Dr D W E Green, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, USA.
Prof. M J Griffin, Queen Mary & Westfield-College, London.
Mr H Kunatschner, University of Durham.
Mr P J Langan, Okehampton.
Alan Lothian, London.
Dr M Marov, Moscow, Russia.
Mr D Pullan, University of Leicester.
Mr W Ward, University of Glasgow.

Junior Members

The following were elected as Junior Members of the Society on 8 December 2000:

Mr W L Clarkson, University of Southampton.
Mr T D Thoroughgood, Sheffield.
Ms I J Walsh, Englefield Drive, Surrey.
Ms A L Watts, Southampton.

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Articles and Review Articles cover any topic likely to be of interest to members of the RAS. You should introduce material at a level comprehensible to a graduate in the subject, but should not limit discussion to this level. The breadth of subjects necessarily involves a range of levels of complexity in the subjects. Editorial policy is to encourage contributions of accuracy and scientific authority over a wide range of interest, with a topical slant where feasible. The Editor welcomes lively writing and a variety of personal styles, but reserves the right to reject material that is unsuitable.

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It is helpful if articles can be provided in electronic form; we use Word6 on Apple Macintosh. Other word processor formats, Tex and LaTeX are also acceptable; please send rtf files as well or if in any doubt. Submission by e-mail is possible, but please do not send the Editor attachments unless asked. If preferred, use ftp. All submissions should be accompanied by a paper copy of the text and figures.

Whatever submission route is preferred, authors should avoid unnecessary formatting. Manuscripts must include a brief, informative abstract of about 150 words. The body of the text should be divided into sections as appropriate, without numbering. Use SI units where appropriate and explain acronyms as necessary. The edited text is faxed to authors for approval as page proofs; corrections and changes must be returned promptly. Authors who may be away in at the time of production should inform the Editor of their whereabouts or nominate a colleague to check in their absence.

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Illustrations, both images and diagrams, are welcome; we prefer a small number of high-quality illustrations. Suggestions for cover images are always welcome. The Editor has discretion over which illustrations to use: the main criteria are content and quality. Illustrations should be sent digitally in a high-resolution format, preferably tiff. Please do not embed files in the text but send them separately. Authors should also send printed copies of figures. Number figures in sequence and label with the main author’s name and the figure number. Give brief but informative captions.

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