

Society Report 2020

Herschel Society of Japan

Sadaharu UEHARA and Tamao TSUNODA

We celebrate the Annual General Meeting of the Herschel Society and express our appreciation for your invitation of a report from our Society. We pay tribute to people over the world working together in this difficult situation.

Activities

Society member Sadaharu UEHARA continues to study detailed situations when Japanese astronomers of the Edo Shogunate first studied and observed Uranus in 1810-1820's. He found specific candidates of source in two Western literatures that tabulated numerical values of Uranus's orbital elements which might be used by Nobuyori Adachi, who calculated the position forecast of Uranus. He published a short report on that in the Society's digital archive*1).

Society member Tsuneyoshi FUJII reported that he had made a half-sized model of the 7-feet Herschel Telescope*2). He says that he referred to the original drawing for paper craft given by Mr Seiji KIMURA about 30 years ago and another drawing by Mr Michael Tabb provided from Mr Yojiro OGANE.

Our Society members were introduced to the online lectures hosted by the Herschel Society and BRLSI and participated in them. We have deepened our friendship through webcams.

Other activity

At an international exhibition of contemporary art "The Yokohama Triennale 2020", works by 19th-century British astronomer and engineer James Nasmyth appeared, which were enlarged printer outputs of pictures taken from his *THE MOON* (London, 4th edition 1903). This book was lent out from a collection of Society member Tamao TSUNODA. The theme of the exhibition was "Afterglow --- catching fragments of light". There, Nasmyth's model works of the moon surface seem to be taken by the curators of the exhibition in a context that a man casts what he learned by observations for many people, and the images and his feels are widely shared*3). This perspective was deeply impressive for us.

References

*1) Sadaharu Uehara, “Sources of Uranus's orbital elements in Nobuyori Adachi's ‘Uranus Table’ ” (in Japanese). Digital Archives of the Herschel Society of Japan (2020). https://www.ne.jp/asahi/mononoke/ttnd/herschel/a-text/Adachi_Nobuyori_and_his_source_of_Uranus'_orbital_elements.htm

*2) The Bulletin Board System, “Tea Room of the Herschel Society of Japan” (2020.07.14).

<https://6615.teacup.com/hsj/bbs/419>

*3) Yokohama Triennale 2020 ”AFTERGLOW”.

<https://www.yokohamatriennale.jp/english/2020/>

The Virtual Tour: clicking the map at URL below, the works of James Nasmyth are found at the right upper quadrant on 3F.

<https://www.yokohamatriennale.jp/2020/tour/yma/>