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ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
BURLINGTON HOUSE
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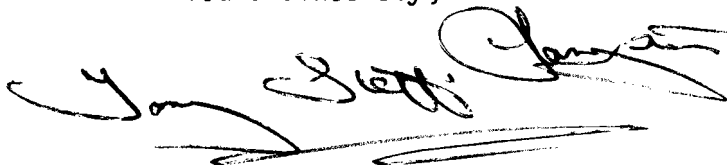
Dr Grote Reber,
General Delivery,
Bothwell,
Tasmania,
Australia 7411.

Dear Dr Reber,

Thank you for your letter of June 6, I was pleased to hear that your medal and gift arrived safely. I enclose an extract from the history of the Society, which gives the background to the creation of the Jackson-Gwilt medal and gift, a copy of the page from our Fellows' List giving the list of recipients of the award, an extract from Monthly Notices of the RAS which includes a short obituary on Joseph Gwilt and finally a copy of the Bye-Laws of the Society which defines the award of the medal as it stands today.

I think that is about the limit of the information I can muster and hope it meets your requirements.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,



J.A. STEFF-LANGSTON
Executive Secretary

Soon after the cessation of these attacks on the Gold Medal, the Council was called upon to issue regulations for another prize to be given in the name of the Society. The founder of this prize was Mrs. Hannah Jackson, a daughter of the well-known architect and writer on architecture, Joseph Gwilt.* In 1861 June she announced to the Council of the Society her desire to give £300 new 3 per cent. stock, to the intent that the same might be a reversionary gift to the Royal Astronomical Society, to be held on trust, and the dividends thereof to be given either annually or every two years to "any person writing the best astronomical work or in any other way advancing Astronomy, either by the invention of a new astronomical instrument or by the discovery of any new heavenly body." The gift was to be called the "Hannah Jackson (*née* Gwilt) Gift," and the donor wished to receive the interest of the £300 during her life. At the request of the Council, Mrs. Jackson consented to the limit of the term of the accumulation of the interest being extended to seven years; she also agreed that the gift should consist of a medal, of money, or of both.† The gift was then accepted by the Council and was announced in the Council Report of 1862 February, and by the adoption of this Report the Annual General Meeting was supposed to have adopted the general principle of the award of another medal.

Mrs. Jackson died on 1893 December 1, after which date the interest was allowed to accumulate for a couple of years. When the question of the new medal was considered by a Committee of the Council, it was at first proposed that the medal be of silver and made from the same die as the Gold Medal, to be inscribed "Hannah Jackson (*née* Gwilt) Gift," with name and date. But on second thoughts it was decided that the obverse should show the portrait of William Herschel, and the reverse Urania holding a small armillary sphere; the medal to be in bronze and three inches in diameter. The medal and money grant to be awarded at intervals of not less than three nor more than seven years. As the Committee had dealt with these matters with great deliberation, nearly the whole of the year 1896 had passed before the Society was informed of these arrangements. As it was desired to make the first award of the medal and a cheque in the following February, a Special General Meeting was called for January 8

November Meeting of Council, signed by not less than seven members of Council. But this is merely an expression of opinion, not a bye-law.

* F.R.A.S., died 1863. His daughter latterly called herself Mrs. Jackson-Gwilt. She was a somewhat eccentric lady, who had a coat-of-arms depicted on her visiting card, over her name. She left a large astronomical scrap-book to the Society's library.

† Extract from Council Minutes, 1861 June 14, printed in *M.N.*, 57, 36.

to make a slight alteration of Bye-Laws 69-74, by adding everywhere the word "gold" before "medal." This would have the effect of not forbidding the bestowal of the new medal. At the February meeting in 1897 the first award of the "Hannah Jackson (*née* Gwilt) Gift and Medal" was made to the veteran astronomer, Lewis Swift, who was well worthy of the honour of heading the list of recipients of this new mark of our Society's appreciation.

It has always been considered something in the nature of a treat to listen to the generally admirable addresses from the Chair before the presentation of the Gold Medal. But the same can hardly be said of the rest of the entertainment provided on these occasions, consisting of scraps of Observatory Reports and one or two obituary notices, read aloud by one of the Secretaries. These may be very interesting to read in print, but are hardly suitable for oral delivery. It was therefore a most welcome innovation when Professor Newall, after the presentation of the medals in 1909, delivered a second address. He said he had gathered that the view was held in many quarters that the President might, from time to time, make the Annual Meeting an opportunity for a brief address on some subject of his own choosing, preferably on some special branch of our subject, compiled from a special point of view, whether retrospective and historically suggestive, or prospective and speculatively suggestive. On this occasion he wished to lay before the meeting the following aspect in astrophysical questions: "Can it be that the main characteristic spectroscopic phenomena of the sun and stars are dictated mainly by matter continually streaming in from without, and not mainly by matter brought from within the body of the sun and the star?" The thorough discussion of this and associated questions by a speaker who is devoting his life to the study of them, makes this address take a high rank among the many important communications made to the Society in the course of years.*

Equally important (in a different way) was the subject dealt with by Gill two years later before leaving the Chair, when he drew attention to the desirability of enlarging the *Nautical Almanac* office, to enable the Director to devote his time to researches in astrodynamics. We have already alluded to this address.

Since 1911 no President has followed the example thus set of delivering a second address, for the interesting address on the foundation of the Society by Professor Fowler (1920 February) can hardly be classed with those just mentioned. It was delivered on a very special occasion, to which it was altogether devoted, and there was, moreover, no presentation of a medal that year, and, therefore, the usual address could not be given. An address,

* The address is printed in full in the *M.N.*, 69, 332-344.

THE HERSCHEL MEDAL

1974	J. P. Wild	1980	G. de Vaucouleurs
1977	{ A. A. Penzias R. W. Wilson	1983	

THE HANNAH JACKSON (*NÉE* GWILT) GIFT AND MEDAL

1897	Lewis Swift	1942	R. L. Waterfield
1902	T. D. Anderson	1946	H. W. Newton
1905	John Tebbutt	1949	A. M. Newbegin
1909	P. J. Melotte	1953	J. P. M. Prentice
1913	The Rev. T. H. E. C. Espin	1956	R. P. de Kock
1918	The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips	1960	{ F. M. Bateson A. F. A. L. Jones
1923	A. Stanley Williams	1963	G. E. D. Alcock
	W. S. Franks	1968	J. G. Porter
1928	William Reid	1971	A. W. J. Cousins
	W. H. Steavenson	1974	G. E. Perry
1931	C. W. Tombaugh	1977	P. A. Moore
1935	W. F. Gale	1980	R. F. Griffin
1938	F. J. Hargreaves	1983	G R E G G R
	P. M. Ryves		

GEORGE DARWIN LECTURERS

1927	Frank Schlesinger	1957	Albrecht Unsöld
1928	W. H. Wright	1958	André Danjon
1929	Ejnar Hertzsprung	1959	A. A. Mikhailov
1930	J. S. Plaskett	1960	V. A. Ambartsumian
1931	Willem de Sitter	1961	H. Zanstra
1932	R. G. Aitken	1962	B. Strömngren
1933	V. M. Slipher	1963	R. Tousey
1934	Harlow Shapley	1964	P. Swings
1935	H. N. Russell	1965	G. M. Clemence
1936	August Kopff	1966	I. S. Bowen
1937	N. E. Norlund	1967	R. F. Christy
1938	Charles Fabry	1968	F. Hoyle
1939	Bernard Lyot	1969	M. Schwarzschild
1943	Svein Rosseland	1970	H. C. van de Hulst
1944	Joseph Proudman	1971	O. Gingerich
1945	Bengt Edlén	1972	P. Connes
1946	J. H. Oort	1973	W. A. Fowler
1947	M. G. J. Minnaert	1974	V. L. Ginzburg
1948	Bertil Lindblad	1975	L. Spitzer
1949	Otto Struve	1976	M. J. Rees
1950	Joel Stebbins	1977	H. van der Laan
1951	A. Pannekoek	1978	L. Goldberg
1952	Edwin P. Hubble	1979	I. R. King
1953	S. Chandrasekhar	1980	J. H. Taylor
1955	Dirk Brouwer	1981	D. Clayton
1956	Walter Baade	1982	

HAROLD JEFFREYS LECTURERS

1963	Sir Harold Jeffreys	1973	A. Dollfus
1964	M. Ewing	1974	J. W. Dungey
1965	Sir Edward Bullard	1975	D. P. McKenzie
1966	H. C. Urey	1976	L. Knopoff
1967	Hannes Alfvén	1977	J. W. King
1968	Walter Munk	1978	M. M. Woolfson
1969	A. T. Price	1979	C. Sagan
1970	F. Press	1980	G. J. Wasserburg
1971	D. G. King-Hele	1981	R. Hide
1972	H. I. S. Thirlaway	1982	

OBITUARY.

The Society has to regret the loss by death of the following Fellows and Associates:—

Honorary.—Baron von Senftenberg.

Fellows.—Rev. J. E. Ashby.
Beriah Botfield, Esq.
Josh. Gwilt, Esq.
T. C. Janson, Esq.
J. Jesse, Esq.
Commander M. Montagu.
Admiral Washington.
Rev. Thos. Belgrave, *Non-Resident*.
Rev. Jas. Grooby. "
Dr. Haldane. "
Jno. Fardell, Esq. "
Jas. Jardine, Esq. "
Commander Molesworth. "
Josh. Moore, Esq. "
Rev. W. Potchet. "

Associates.—Prof. Amici.
M. Capocci.
M. Mosotti.
M. le Baron Plana.
M. Weisse.

The King of Siam, an Honorary Member, reported as dead, is still alive.

JOHN EYRE ASHBY was born on the 22d January, 1820. He was educated at University College School, London, where he obtained several distinctions, and in 1840 graduated B.A. in the University of London. After several years in Homerton College, devoted more especially to his training for the work of a Congregational Minister, he laboured both as a Pastor and as a Lecturer on the higher Mathematics, successively in Arundel, Brighton, and London. In 1856 he established a boys' school at Enfield, and carried it on with success till his premature death on December 22d, 1863. In 1858 he proceeded with distinction to the degree of LL.D. in the University of Jena. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1843.

Of Dr. Ashby's kindness and courteousness,—of his genuine wit and sense of humour,—of his industry and energy,—of the liberality of his religious convictions,—of the wide range of his acquirements, and the strong grasp of his mind,—many men in the extensive circle of his acquaintance and friends can testify. Taken so early from the sphere of his activities here,

before a time of leisure had arrived, Dr. Ashby had not completed much original work. His early devotion to Mathematics and Astronomy gave way to an increasing fondness for Chemistry and Chemical Physics. On these and kindred subjects he gave interesting and well-illustrated lectures, not only to his own school, but to various public institutions.

BERIAH BOTFIELD was born in the year 1807. He was educated at Harrow, the school of which he subsequently endowed with the "Botfield Medal for Modern Languages." From Harrow he proceeded to Christ Church, Oxford, and took his degree of B.A. in 1828.

Mr. Botfield was principally distinguished as a bibliographer, in which pursuit he was almost unrivalled. He published several works on bibliographical and antiquarian subjects, and communicated numerous papers on similar subjects to the *Gentleman's Magazine* and other periodicals. In 1840 he was returned to Parliament for Ludlow, and although at a subsequent election in 1847 he was unsuccessful, he regained his seat in 1857, and sat for that borough from that time to the close of his life.

His library at Norton Hall, Northamptonshire, is chiefly remarkable for a fine collection of *editiones principes* of classical authors, and costly folio editions of illustrated works.

He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and of the Society of Antiquaries, and joined this Society in 1839. He died on the 7th of August, 1863, at the age of 56 years.

JOSEPH GWILT was born in the parish of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, January 11, 1784. He was the son of Mr. George Gwilt, architect, which profession he also followed, and at his decease was looked upon as one of its most eminent members. He was the author of many valuable works, chiefly relating to architectural literature. The chief of these is his *Architectural Dictionary*, which is a production of extraordinary merit, whether for the purposes of elementary and advanced study, or for those of general reference. It has gone through many editions, and is much valued by the profession. In 1815 he became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and in 1833 was elected a Fellow of this Society. He died on the 14th of September, 1863, in his eightieth year.

THOMAS CORBYN JANSON was born on the 1st of July, 1809. He was educated by Dr. Morell, of Hove, near Brighton, and acquired great proficiency in the learned languages. In his early youth he was much distinguished for his taste for natural history, which continued his favourite pursuit during his life. He also paid considerable attention to astronomy, and was a careful and laborious observer of transits, occultations, and eclipses. In 1860, while travelling in the south of France, he

but see BL 73

66. The Council may appoint Fellows to act as Honorary Editors of the Society's publications. Such editors shall then act on behalf of the Council and in conjunction with the Secretaries in regard to the content and presentation of the publications.

67. The copyright of a paper communicated to the Society shall, in consequence of such communication, be considered as the property of the Society unless there shall have been previous engagement with the author to the contrary; the Society may publish the paper in any way and at any time that it thinks proper. However, should the Society refuse, or neglect within a year, to publish the paper, the copyright shall revert to the author.

SECTION XIX. *The Gold Medals*

68. The Society may recognize outstanding contributions to Astronomy and Geophysics by the award of Gold Medals: in any one year, not more than one in the field of astronomy (excluding planetary science) and not more than one in the field of geophysics and planetary science.

69. It shall be the duty of the Council to consider annually the propriety of such awards and, if it thinks fit, to decide upon the awards. No Gold Medal shall be awarded unless at least three-fourths of the members of the Council present at the appropriate meeting agree thereto.

70. Notwithstanding Bye-law 68, in cases where two or more persons have been jointly concerned in a particular contribution, or have been the simultaneous but independent authors of an outstanding contribution, a Gold Medal may be awarded to these persons jointly. In such a case, an impression of the Gold Medal shall be given to each of the joint recipients.

SECTION XX. *The Eddington, Chapman and Herschel Medals*

71. The Society may recognize specific investigations of outstanding merit by the award of the Eddington, the Chapman and the Herschel Medals, each at intervals of not less than three years. The fields of interest shall be: Eddington Medal—theoretical astronomy, more especially those branches in which Eddington worked; Chapman Medal—geophysics and planetary science; Herschel Medal—those branches of astronomy not included in the fields of interest of the Eddington and Chapman Medals.

72. The procedure for making the awards shall follow that set out in Bye-laws 69 and 70 for the award of the Gold Medals.

SECTION XXI. *The Hannah Jackson (née Gwilt) Medal*

73. The Hannah Jackson (*née* Gwilt) Medal shall be awarded by the Society, at intervals of not less than three nor more than seven years, in recognition of the invention or improvement of any astronomical instrument, of outstanding observational work, or of the promotion in any other way of the science of Astronomy. The award, which shall rest with the Council, shall consist of a bronze medal and a gift of money.

SECTION XXII. *The Common Seal and Deeds*

74. The Common Seal of the Society is a representation of Herschel's telescope, with the motto *Quicquid nitet notandum*, surrounded by the words and figures *Royal Astronomical Society 1820*.

75. The Charter, the Common Seal and the Deeds of the Society shall be properly secured under two different locks, the key of one to be kept by the President and the key of the other by the Treasurer.