



APPLETON LABORATORY NEWSLETTER

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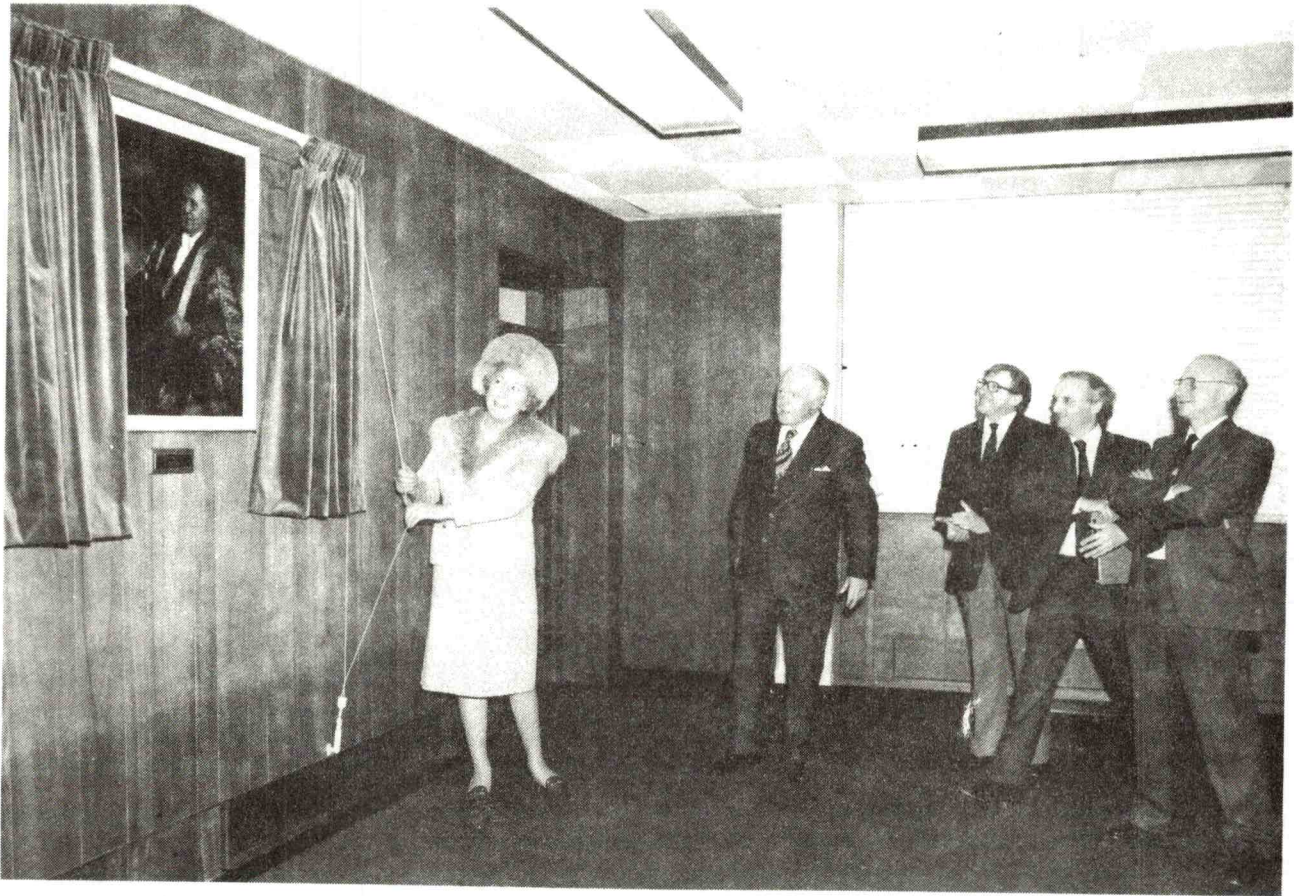
January/February 1980

The Appleton Portrait

The influence of Sir Edward Appleton during the five decades of research so far carried out by our Laboratory was recently marked at Chilton by a ceremony attended by Lady Appleton, Sir Granville Beynon, Sir Geoffrey Allen, Dr. Stafford, Professor Houghton and a number of staff from Rutherford and Appleton Divisions.

A portrait of Sir Edward, robed as the Vice Principal of the University of Edinburgh, was unveiled by Lady Appleton. Sir Granville Beynon, himself an Old Boy of Ditton Park and long-standing friend and fellow scientist of Appleton's recalled interesting and amusing moments from other days.

It is a fitting symbol of association that Lord Rutherford and one of his most distinguished students are now jointly and lastingly commemorated at Chilton.



The portrait of Sir Edward Appleton, F.R.S., is unveiled by Lady Appleton at a recent ceremony.

WARC 1979

The World Administrative Radio Conference, which lasted from September to December last year, progressed less well than had been hoped, about as well as was expected and better than some feared. The start of real work was delayed by three days of difficult negotiations on the selection of an overall chairman, and even then the pace was not noticeably brisk until delegates began to realise how quickly ten weeks can pass. In spite of sessions at week-ends, and some lasting until midnight and often later, the conference over-ran by six days. Its conclusion was no doubt assisted by the approach of Christmas and the assertion by some delegations that they were running out of funds; Geneva is no place to be short of cash.

At the outset 1500 delegates were expected; in the event there were more than 2000 and seats were rationed in the main sessions. That they were nearly all occupied, even in the midnight sessions, speaks well for the diligence of the delegates. Some countered the shortness of the meal breaks by having a fresco meals in the lounge with sandwiches brought by their wives. The main meetings were so vast, and the UK seats so far from the top table, that I took my binoculars on one occasion; I felt that I should at least be able to recognise the Chairman if I met him in the street.

I was concerned mainly with efforts to get the best possible deal for radio-astronomy and space research. The general opinion was that these services did very well; attitudes were mostly sympathetic even among those countries with little or no scientific programme of their own. The cause of radioastronomy was helped by a strong and cohesive group of radioastronomers who could give the subject their almost undivided attention. However many of the allocations could be extended only by sharing with other services, and the avoidance of interference will depend on the benevolence and skill of those planning services at the national level.

One of the main objectives regarding space research was the acquisition of many more allocations for both active (radar) and passive sensing of the Earth's surface and atmosphere from satellites. The allocations obtained seem adequate in number but many are shared with other services and it remains to be seen whether it will always be possible to study natural phenomena rather than the distribution of taxicabs.

Lest it be thought that the sole objective of the conference was to allocate frequencies, it should be stressed that the committee charged with this task was only one of nine, albeit the one which attracts most public attention. The others are concerned with the international administration of radio services and with the technical criteria on which this is based. It is in this area that the Appleton Laboratory, in its various guises, has contributed so much, through the International Radio Consultative Committee, and where its expertise will continue to be needed in the future programme of specialist radio conferences.

F. Horner

DONGA TO DONGA

With a sad heart after the closure of the ELDO mess (building not project) I learned of the demise of the Skylark gimbal launcher at Woomera. Not since having news of the departure of D.... to Whyalla was I so aware of the seriousness of the situation 'down under'. The launcher was constructed in the late fifties from a Bailey bridge and had launched over 250 Skylarks during a span of some 20 years before falling victim to inflation.

Although involved late in its life, and then mainly with rumours rather than rockets, I have only good memories whilst in its service. So I hope you Poms who saw and used her (the launcher, not D....) will open a tube from your eskies, bottle from Barrosa or mark one on your bar chart and drink to all those homeless red backs.

Good on yer.

P.O.H.M.

Staff NewsCongratulations to:

Roger and Wendy Burdett on the birth of their son, Howard John.

Ray Henzell on his gaining one of the Joseph Martin Awards which are presented to outstanding students at Windsor & Maidenhead College.

K. Slater	now	S.S.O.
A.B. Lowe	"	S.S.O.
L.D.J. Harris	"	H.S.O.

Welcome to:

N.G. Angold	S.O.
W.J. Bradford	S.O.
S.W. Kill	Photographer
Miss J.A. Biggin	H.S.O. (R.L.)

Resignations etc.

P. Muzlish	P.T.O. I
Mrs. J. Scislowski	Typist p/t
R. Downton	P.T.O. I
Miss A. Wasik	H.S.O.
G.P. Harris	H.S.O.
Mrs. E. Stephenson	C.O.
K.A. Buckland	Craftsman II
A.E. Davies	S.S. Lab.
P.M. Roberts	S.C.S.
M. Meaney	S.C.S.
W. K. So	S.C.S.
S.B. Snaith	S.C.S.

Other changes

K. Slater S.S.O. to Dr. King's section
C.P. Chaloner H.S.O. to Dr. L. Thomas's section

Former Staff

Congratulations to Julie & Norman Coombes on the birth of their son, Peter Thomas.

Letter to the Outstations

Dear Colleagues,

Few would deny that the pleasures of idleness are enhanced tenfold when accompanied by a comfortable view of roadworks being dug, folk hurrying through sleet or travellers pursuing a departing train one has no wish to catch. It is not a very moral pleasure. The Germans have a word for it and, for all I know, so have the Greeks. None the less, fate sometimes sets such a state of affairs before one's eyes; then only the truly high-minded have strength to turn from temptation.

The recent beached hulk at Brighton was a national example. The other day, aided by local industry, we too were able to mount a small happening.

A hired coach it was, outward bound for Chilton with a cargo of sightseers.

The driver managed to steer the thing from path to lawn. Done at the gallop, as it were, all might have been well. Dawdled over, the laws of soil mechanics, fluid dynamics and what have you, had time to recollect their duties. The vehicle sank in the mud up to regions that polite vehicles don't talk about and with every struggle settled more surely.

Things began to look like the ending in the Hound of the Baskervilles when, ere the mire finally closed over all, a gallant rescue was mounted by the Land Rover. Cables twanged taut, engines roared, mud flew and clutches clutched - then didn't. The Rover withdrew with some sort of mechanical hernia and recourse was had to the Heavy Mob.

Throughout all this, increasing groups of admirers were visible at various windows, all appreciative of the struggle between man and the inanimate, or rather uselessly animate, slipping, spraying wheels.

Might triumphed. The tractor squared its shoulders, (I know, I know - but the words serve, so leave 'em be) heaved and out came the cork - the coach I mean.

It's said that the driver is a local man. Perhaps he's a crypto-philanthropist who, knowing the squadgy nature of the soil, sought to add a little drama to our day. A kind of small unrest cure to help us battle with the daily round and, of course, to furnish a line or two for the pen of,

Yours sincerely,

The Editor