



3489 OBSERVATORY PLACE, CINCINNATI, OH 45208 | PHONE: 513-321-5186 | WWW.CINCINNATIOBSERVATORY.ORG

**SYMPOSIUM ON HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY AND ORIGINS OF BASEBALL
IN MEMORY OF HISTORIAN CRAIG B. WAFF
Cincinnati Observatory Center: Friday, June 27–Sunday, June 29, 2014**

Preliminary Program

Friday, June 27

6:00 PM—Ice Cream Social: Registration check-in for whole symposium, half-symposium astronomy concentration, and ice cream social single tickets; set-up of vintage astronomical and baseball equipment

7:00 PM—Welcoming Remarks (representatives of COC, ATS, VBBA, etc.)

7:30 PM—Introduction and History of the Cincinnati Observatory, John E. Ventre. COC Historian; followed by behind-the-scenes tours of the historic telescopes (an 11-inch 1845 Merz and Mahler refractor, largest in the U.S. when installed in 1845, and the 16-inch Alvan Clark & Sons refractor installed in 1904)

9:30 PM—Viewing through the 169- and 110-year-old telescopes (featuring Mars and Saturn), weather permitting

Saturday, June 28: History of Astronomy and Space Concentration

8:30 AM—Continental breakfast at the COC

Morning session of speakers (times and order TBA), *plus* mid-morning coffee break

Lunch at the COC

Early afternoon session of speakers (times and order TBA), *plus* mid-afternoon iced-tea break

Speakers (alphabetical order only; subject to changes):

Barbara Becker, University of California, Irvine

Andrew J. Butrica, NASA Contract Historian

Gene Cross, Optical Engineer

Lawrence D'Antonio, Ramapo College

Steven J. Dick, NASA/Library of Congress

Rob Landis, NASA Near-Earth Object Observation Program

Marc Rothenberg, National Science Foundation

Robert W. Smith, University of Alberta

Late afternoon: informal show-and-tell demonstrations of vintage astronomical and baseball equipment

1-2-hour break to freshen up at hotel and drive to Xavier University

6:00 PM—Reception at Xavier University, President's Board Room; Registration check-in for half-symposium baseball concentration and single tickets for the reception/banquet/keynote speakers

7:00 PM—Banquet, President's Board Room, Xavier University

8:00 PM—Keynote speakers Steven J. Dick and John Thorn (see speaker bios), order to be determined by a coin toss

Preliminary program (continued)

Sunday, June 29: History of Baseball

8:30 AM—Continental breakfast at the COC

Welcoming Remarks (representatives of COC, ATS, VBBA, etc.)

Morning session of speakers (times and order TBA), *plus* mid-morning coffee break

Lunch at the COC

Early afternoon session of speakers (times and order TBA), *plus* mid-afternoon iced-tea break

Speakers (alphabetical order only; subject to additions and changes):

Trudy E. Bell, widow of Craig B. Waff and speakers co-chair

Leo Bradley, Xavier University

Eric Miklich, VBBA Historian, owner, 19C Base Ball (vintage equipment), and speakers co-chair

Greg Rhodes, former head, Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame

Robert Tholkes, contributor to SABR publications and to the journal *Base Ball*

Craig B. Waff, video presentation of his 2009 talk to the VBBA on the debut of his Games Tabulations

Mid-afternoon: informal show-and-tell demonstrations of vintage astronomical and baseball equipment

Late afternoon: Behind-the-scenes tour of Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and nearby historic Crosley Field, conducted by current and previous Hall of Fame directors Chris Eckes and Greg Rhodes

The **Antique Telescope Society** (<http://oldscope.org>), founded in 1991, is an international organization. Recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, its purpose is to unite colleagues interested in antique astronomical telescopes, binoculars, books, and related items; and to promote the membership's interests in astronomical history and discovery, the history of optics, and the preservation and use of astronomical instruments through stewardship and education. The principal activities of the Society are publishing a journal, organizing meetings, providing assistance with the restoration of instruments, hosting shows and displays, preserving historical data, and guiding collectors.

The **Cincinnati Observatory Center** (<http://www.cincinnatiobservatory.org>) promotes the study, practice, and enjoyment of astronomy among a broad audience. It also assists professional and amateur astronomers, schools and universities in furthering their educational efforts on behalf of astronomy and related STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines. While fulfilling this mission, the COC maintains the integrity and heritage of an historic 19th century observatory, including relevant artifacts illustrating the history of astronomy and its relationship to broader fields of science throughout the years. The fully functional 1845 Merz & Mahler and 1904 Alvan Clark & Sons telescopes are the backbone of this unique educational center and are used by students of all ages almost every clear night.

The **Vintage Base Ball Association** (<http://www.vbba.org/>), founded in 1996, preserves, perpetuates, and promotes the game of base ball as it was played during its formative years in the nineteenth century and other historic eras. Its activities include: presenting the game of base ball as it was actually played in accordance with the rules, equipment, uniforms, field specifications, customs, practices, language, and behavioral norms of the period; supporting the formation and strengthening of vintage base ball clubs; encouraging research and disseminating information in order to recreate the game in keeping with the highest levels of accuracy and authenticity; and educating the public regarding the character, history, and growth of the game with attention to the historical context in which it originated and developed.

Local organizers:

Cincinnati Observatory Center

3489 Observatory Place

Cincinnati, OH 45208

Craig Niemi, Executive Director, (513) 321-5186 x1

craig@cincinnatiobservatory.org

John E. Ventre, Historian, (513) 321-5186 x4

jventre@ix.netcom.com

Program/Papers co-chairs:

Trudy E. Bell, M.A., (567) 623-6233 (for the ATS)

t.e.bell@ieee.org

Eric Miklich, VBBA Historian (for the VBBA)

ddej@msn.com

Valerie Niemi, Travel/Logistics Coordinator

Prestige Travel (800) 783-9859 x1025 Tuesdays and Fridays

valerie@prestige-travel.com