COMPETENCE HELD HOSTAGE

The History-of-Astronomy Journal Watch: #1 of a Series

[Do Not Miss Page 48]

In its 1991/5 issue, the extremely handsome *Journal for the History of Astronomy* published a LEAD [Mufa] article by falsely claiming — on the basis of [UNREFEREED] gradeschool & junior-high mismath (see *DIO-JOURNAL for Hysterical Astronomy* 1.2 §C1, §G4, §G7, §I12, fn 63, & here at §A) — that Hipparchos’ 3 surviving solar-longitude trios cannot be satisfied by standard Greek-trig (eccentric model) orbits. And Isis’ 1991/9 LEAD article (in its first University of Chicago issue) was an extension of the same fantasy.

Cleaning up after this mass-suicidal [demo of Hist.sci.’s referreeing standards], *DIO-J.Hysteron. Astron. 1.2-3* published all 3 “impossible” orbit-solutions, and this double-issue was mailed to the *JHA*, *Isis*, & the author on 1993/12/31. [Isis cultishly ashcaned this] *DIO-J.HA . . . . [Note our appreciation of Isis’ later generous atonement: at DIO 14 [2008] Epilog [p.31].] But the esteemed *JHA* Editor-for-Life’s reaction was more inspired: the journal was sent back to DIO, unopened, bearing His Lordship’s inimitable scrawl: “RETURN TO SENDER” — with a pink 1994/1/31 sticker, on which the alleged reason for return is hand-checked “GONE AWAY”. It would be churlishly unappreciative of DIO not to own that cowering Lord H has, at last, effected a solid contribution to science: establishing the reality of out-of-body teleportation.

The *Journal for the History of Astronomy* is co-edited by professors at Cambridge University (Hoskin) and Harvard University (Gingerich). Neither institution — nor the History of science Society [DR 2009 note: but see previous paragraph] — appears to have the slightest concern to check the level of integrity, scrupulousness, evenhandedness, or competence displayed by either of these History-of-science worthies. (See similarly at *DIO 2.1* fn 38.)

Mufa’s 1st informed (written receipt) of the essentials of this mess on 1992/10/30. (Full details sent out 1993/12/31.) So the delay in coming clean has now assumed — and will continue to assume — highly impressive proportions. We are waiting to see how many more years will pass before the *JHA* admits what all investigating mathematicians have now mirthfully verified: that the journal the *JHA* loathes above all others has competently discovered and published the very three orbit-solutions the *JHA* has prominently declared impossible to find, have all been recovered 2 by the three orbit-solutions the *JHA* has prominently declared unfindable. Note that the last of these 3 solar orbits (“U”) is historically critical: the reference-orbit adopted by Hipparchos for locating the principal stars on which are based (see *DIO 1.1* §6-§3-G) the zodiacal longitudes preserved in his immortal (1025-object) star catalog, the oldest substantial star catalog we have (the sole such achievement surviving from antiquity): unmatched for the next 1500 years.

1 [DIO note 2002/10/9 & 2005/3/14: For details of the history of the *JHA’s* eventual partial resolution of its obligations in connection with the matter under discussion here, see *DIO 6* §3. Since publishing the above, *DIO* has come to admire much of [the author]’s work. [Though, his *JHA* 3.15-20 paper was particularly disappointing. [See *DIO 4.2* p.54 fn 2 & *DIO 1.1 p.26.]] Further on his best pioneering research [some of which has come to be as good as it gets — including an enormously appreciated discovery, justly displacing a DR misjudgement]: see *DIO 1.2* [2001 printing] inside cover, *DIO 9.1* inside cover, and ESPECIALLY *DIO 11.2* cover story. For more reflections of our fondness for him and our admiring anticipation of his future great work, see www.dio.org/pr/htm.]

2 The 3 Greek orbits, which *JHA* Isis 1991 frontpage papers declared impossible to find, have all been recovered by *DIO*. The 12 elements are printed at *DIO-J.Hysteron. Astron. 1.2-3* §G10, §K9, §M4 (& see fn 162 & fn 205).