

## The 2013 NASS Conference 22-25 August 2013

The 2013 NASS Conference opened on the Thursday afternoon with its usual welcoming reception between 4.30 and 6pm. Light refreshments were served during which the now famous NASS door prizes were distributed.

Friday was the tour day. This year the whole day was spent on the Harvard campus. After breakfast delegates made their way to the Science Center to view the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments and to see the Center's current exhibitions, a special display and a short internal tour:

- *Time & Time Again* (a major new exhibition featuring many sundials)
- *Time, Life & Matter* (an ongoing exhibit of important scientific instruments)
- *A Special Display* of 'Reserve' sundials from the collection not usually on public exhibition - all described by Sara Schechner and
- *A Behind the Scenes* look at the museum.

Delegates then took their own lunch in one or other of the dozens of restaurants in Harvard Square



After lunch, the afternoon allowed some free time to explore the 40 additional objects in the *Time & Time Again* Exhibition's Time Trails through the campus, locating related horological items in the Semitic, Peabody, and Natural History museums

Refreshments were served at 3pm in the Science Center following which delegates could view a 'retrospective' celebrating 20 years of NASS and listen to a couple of interesting talks.

Friday dinner was again taken in the vicinity of Harvard Square and then, for those who felt up to it, a one mile walk (uphill too!) led to the Harvard Observatory which was opened to delegates for a special visit to see the 15" Great Refractor Telescope from 1847 (which at one time was the largest telescope in the US) and the 9" Clark Refractor that dates from 1912. There followed a tour of the *plate stacks* which hold one of the largest collections of astronomical plates together with some historic photographs.



On the Saturday delegates embarked upon a full day of talks and displays on sundials interspersed by lunch and afternoon refreshments. At the end of the day Fred awarded the '2013 Sawyer Dialing Prize' to André Bouchard, in recognition of two decades of his promoting, preserving, extending and exemplifying the patrimoine Québécois of dialing and gnomonics.

Sunday morning started with the Society's business meeting and that was followed by more talks and the Society's famous short contributions. The meeting finished at 1:00pm.