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News Notes:

A. DIO 2.3 (1992) ‡8 §A9 wondered aloud at a decade of academic innocence of DR's simple physical solutions for the two highly discrepant extant ancient Earth-size estimates: Eratosthenes' 252000 stades (25200 naut mi) & Poseidonios' 180000 stades (18000 naut mi). (Frequently pseudo-explained away by manipulating the ancient stade's length, despite the final demolition of this avenue by David Dicks at pp.42-46 of his *Geographical Fragments of Hipparchus*, University of London, 1960. See DIO 2.3 ‡8 fn 9.) Jearl Walker immediately responded by sending DIO a photocopy of p.8 of his brandnew edition of the longtime standard college physics textbook, D. Halliday, R. Resnick, & J. Walker, *Fundamentals of Physics* 4th ed, NYC 1993. This develops DR's "double-sunset" solution (which, if accurately performed, will yield Poseidonios' 18000 naut mi, 20% low — a result severely influencing Columbus, who is the subject of article ‡2 in this DIO), and cites the DR 1979/2 *American Journal of Physics* paper announcing it. Rarely has a plea for public enlightenment been so promptly & competently satisfied!

B. DR has repeatedly invited the Neugebauer-Muffia to debate him, face-to-face. (See, e.g., DIO 2.1 ‡2 fn 24 & ‡3 fn 11.) Most recently, prior to & during the 1994/5/6-8 Dibner Inst (M.I.T.) Muffia-dominated conference on "Ancient Astronomy & Divination", DR re-issued the challenge — and even appeared personally at the conference to make tangible the suggested opportunity for arranging debate on the spot. (DR made available past copies of DIO, on the sample-literature table outside the meeting room. I am sorry to report that, at one point, the entire visible collection was stolen. This practice would presumably have continued, had it not swiftly become clear that publisher DR — on the basis of long experience with archons' attitudes & behavior towards criticism — had kept more than enough backup copies in reserve, to ensure the failure of this latest charming History-of-science demonstration of its commitment to open discourse: see also DIO 2.1 p.2. One is reminded of the late N.Simpson's deeply-slit throat: when power-drunks aim at silencing either a person or an idea, the intent is as plain as the coldbloodedness.) At the conference, DR handed out photocopies of DIO's 1994/4/26 letter (to *Isis*) which concluded: "At the proposed debate, Muffiosi will greatly outnumber skeptics (see DIO 2.1 ‡2 §H20). Well, that's OK by DR. Question: just how high must the odds be, before Muffia braves are willing to openly debate those they have never hesitated [e.g., DIO 1.1 ‡1 §C7 & ‡3 §D2-§D3] to slander in private?" (As of this DIO's press-time: still no takers.) Since the Muffia chose (again, as for 2 decades) to duck the challenge, I urge that scholars — who in future find themselves in the presence of a Muffioso who is (again, as for 2 decades) privately denigrating (e.g., DIO-J.HA 1.2 fn 11) the science-history competence of DR or Robert Newton — simply ask said termite a lethally elementary question (which suggests exactly how seriously this subterranean slime ought to be taken): whyever did you not make your statement above-ground, out in the daylight, in DR's presence, at the Dibner Institute conference, **under mutual cross-examination conditions?** Why, indeed?

COMPETENCE HELD HOSTAGE

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

[Do Not Miss Page 48]

JHA-Isis: THREE YEARS of Unretracted PageOne Mis-Arithmetic

In its 1991/5 issue, the extremely handsome *Journal for the History of Astronomy* published a LEAD [Muffia] article by falsely claiming — on the basis of [UNREFEREED] gradeschool & junior-high mismath (see *DIO-Journal for Hysterical Astronomy* 1.2 §C11, §G4, §G7, §I12, fn 63, & here at ‡4 §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 refereeing standards], *DIO-J.Hysterical Astron.* 1.2-3 published all 3 "impossible" orbit-solutions, and this double-issue was mailed to the *JHA*, *Isis*, & the author¹ on 1993/12/31. [*Isis* cultishly ashcanned 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 ‡3 fn 38.)

Muffiosi were 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 published² the very three orbit-solutions the *JHA* has prominently declared unfindable. Note that the last of these 3 solar orbits ("UH") is historically critical: the reference-orbit adopted by Hipparchos for locating the principal stars on which are based (see DIO 1.1 ‡6 §F-§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* 33:15-20 paper was particularly disappointing. [See DIO 4.2 p.54 fn 2 & DIO 11.1 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.dioi.org/pri.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.Hysterical Astron.* 1.2-3 §G10, §K9, §M4 (& see fn 162 & fn 205).