to Newton's authority, it seems, that distrust of chronometers from which William Harrison was to suffer later.” This may be so, but there is no evidence with which I am familiar which would link that later distrust to “Newton's authority”.

A second astronomical topic concerns Flamsteed’s observations. On 30 June 1715 a short note from Flamsteed to Newton asks that his MSS be restored to him. Another letter, from the Duke of Bolton to Newton and others (30 November 1715) announces that 300 of the 340 copies of the “unauthorized” first edition (1712) of Flamsteed's Historia coelestis should be turned over to Flamsteed, who then destroyed them all in a great ceremonial burning. Eventually, six years after Flamsteed’s death (1719), the “authorized” three-volume edition of Flamsteed’s observations was finally published, largely through the efforts of Flamsteed’s wife Margaret.

The greater part of this volume, apart from the calculus controversy, is concerned with affairs of the Mint.

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ASTRONOMERS AT THE CAPE OBSERVATORY


For the reader desiring an introduction to the lives and work of the astronomers at the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope—with emphasis on the lives—this book is highly recommended. Warner's research in a number of manuscript deposits enables him to supply some new information and to relegate anecdotes previously accepted as factual to the realm of legend or myth. The result is a reliable, well-written collection of biographical sketches. Faithful to his subtitle, Warner spends about eighty per cent of the book discussing the nineteenth century, tracing in some detail the evolution of the observatory through the terms of the first five of His/Her Majesty's Astronomers: from Fearon Fallows's appointment in 1820 to David Gill's retirement in 1907. The remaining sixty-one years of the observatory's history are described superficially in only fifteen pages.

For the historian already familiar with the story of the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope, or interested in placing the observatory within the broader context of British astronomy or colonial science, this book, unfortunately, can only be described as a tease. Important themes, such as the selection criteria for observatory staff, the employment situation for astronomers in Britain, the relationship between the colonial and the London scientific communities, the failure to develop a native South African astronomical community, and the changing status of British scientists in South Africa after the Boer War, are all either hinted at or touched upon in the course of the book, but never fully developed. Although it would be unfair to describe this history as solely descriptive, the analytical material represents a distinct minority. Perhaps most