

# FROM THE BAA ARCHIVES

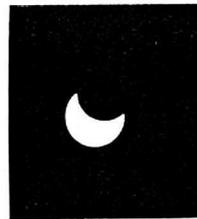
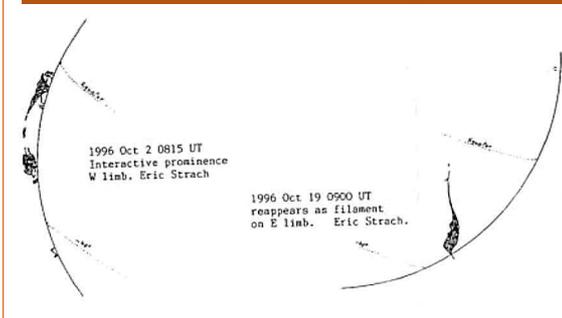
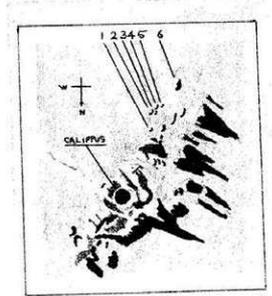


Photo of Partial Solar Eclipse from Milan, Emilio Colombo.



From the 1996 October Solar Section Newsletter.

Above & below: From the Lunar Section Circular, 1971 October.



**John Chuter**  
Archivist

In these pieces I usually describe artifacts, paper or otherwise, in the physical Archives. It is important that these are conserved for future generations. But, in our modern communication age, the use of online archives is also commonplace. I frequently refer to such resources for my own research.

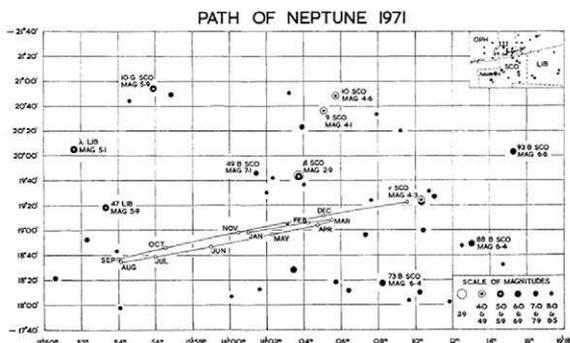
The BAA website has many places where such online archives are available for members to use.

I have put together a document giving links to areas of the BAA website that house online archives of various types, at: [bit.ly/2YNnW1M](http://bit.ly/2YNnW1M). Some of many examples are shown here.

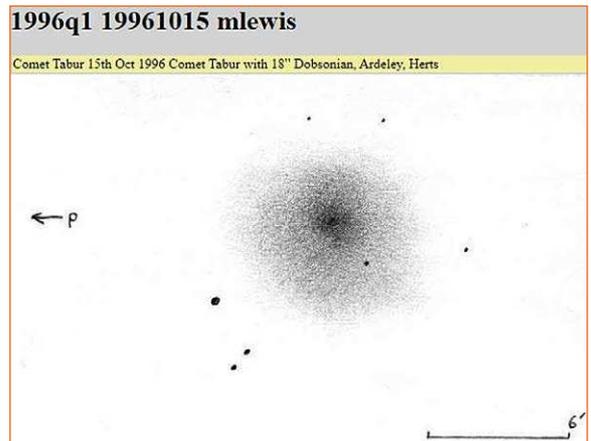
As time goes by, these resources can only get larger and larger. Perhaps in 2090, the 200th anniversary of the BAA, they will be seen as some of the foremost, if not the foremost archives to comprise almost exclusively the observations of amateur astronomers. 🍷

(Bottom), J. Coates, 1971 May 4. Slight mist. Moon 9 days old. 3" refractor. COPERNICUS.

The environs were very complex and would be exceedingly difficult to portray accurately on the sketch.  
LEIFAR, DOMES, K.N., Mardle. Lunation 597. Caucasus Mts. area searching for lunar domes in particular: +152+510 (xi-eta). No. 6 seems to be this one, but other domes were observed at 1,2,3,4 and 5. No. 2 doubtful. Area illustrated above Calippus was sketched to show positions of suspected domes. They looked like 'pimples' with no surface detail No.6 being the largest. (Bottom right).



From the 1971 BAA Handbook.



From the BAA/TA Comet Image Archive.

► been possible to drive a coach and horses through the Cassini Division! It also provided stunning wider-field views of deep-sky objects at the Newtonian focus. However, it was indeed a tortuous task to swap between configurations and collimate during an observing session. This was not undertaken lightly, especially on a cold night.

I currently possess two telescopes that might be considered convertible. My Takahashi FC-76 DCU  $f/7.5$  fluorite refractor was described in an earlier paper on 'The quest for an airline-portable telescope for visual astronomy' [130(1), 37-40 (2020)]. The fact that the optical tube unscrews into two components makes it readily airline portable. Since I wrote that article, I have purchased an 'Extender CQ 1.7x' lens unit, which fits between these two tube components and extends it from  $f/7.5$  to  $f/12.8$ . In the latter configuration, higher powers can be achieved with longer focal-length eyepieces. Thus, the 76mm refractor can be converted for use in two configurations (and still remain airline portable).



The FC-76 DCU. Top: the optical tube assembly in  $f/7.5$  configuration, with the Extender CQ 1.7x unit alongside. Bottom: the telescope in  $f/12.8$  configuration, with the Extender in place.

I have another telescope which is similarly convertible. The Takahashi FOA-60Q can be operated as a 60mm refractor in  $f/15$  mode or, by removing a section of the tube containing additional lenses, at  $f/8.8$ . Converting between configurations is relatively straightforward so long as one takes care to not cross-thread the fine threads on the tube components. Takahashi

describes the FOA-60Q as the refractor that most closely approaches optical perfection, comprising six lenses, one of which is fluorite.

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