

Peter Doig

Peter Doig died on October 13, after a long and painful illness, in spite of which he continued to edit the *Journal* up to a week or two before his death. To most members of the British Astronomical Association he was known only as an astronomer, but there was another equally important interest in his life, about which something will now be said.

Born in Glasgow in 1882, he received his early education at Allen Glen's School and later served his apprenticeship as a ship draughtsman with John Brown & Co. Ltd, at Clydebank. Having completed his apprenticeship, he spent some time in the United States of America where his ability on the design of screw propellers was quickly recognized. When he returned from America he worked in the design department of Harland and Wolff, Belfast, and after spending some time there he was appointed Chief Draughtsman with a ship-building firm in Shanghai. Unfortunately a serious illness compelled him to relinquish this work during the first world war and he returned to this country to undertake work with Beardmore & Co., Dalmuir. Early in 1918 he was appointed the first full-time General Secretary of the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen, in which capacity he displayed his remarkable ability as an administrator and adviser. In spite of his disability from which he suffered after his return from Shanghai, he retained the secretaryship of the Association until 1945—two years before he reached retiring age—when he felt the strain of the work too much, and failing health compelled him to resign.

In 1921 he was elected a member of the British Astronomical Association, and the following year a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. In 1930 he was appointed Editor of the *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, on the retirement of Mrs Maunder, and continued with the editorial work until 1937 when his work with his professional Association (A.E.S.D.) necessitated his resignation; but towards the end of 1947, being then free from his work with the A.E.S.D., he was reappointed Editor and continued such until his death.

In addition to serving on the Council in 1921, 1923, 1925, 1926 and 1929, he was Vice-President from 1937 till 1939, and Curator of Lantern Slides from 1926 till 1941. In 1927 his first book, *An Outline of Stellar Astronomy*, appeared, and this was revised and enlarged in 1947. In 1950 his *A Concise History of Astronomy* was published, and in 1951-2, he collaborated with a number of other authors in the production of a work, *Astronomy for Everyman* (to appear in 1953 January) in which he was responsible for a portion of the chapter on the history of astronomy and also for all the chapter on the stars. He was just able to correct the page proofs of these chapters before his death.

Doig was an ideal Editor, and it was largely due to his untiring efforts that the *Journal* maintained its high standard amongst astronomical publications. He was mainly responsible for contributing towards the 'Notes' which are an important feature of the *Journal* each month. Business-like in everything that



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he undertook, it was a pleasure to contributors to the *Journal* to find that he was always prompt in replying to letters, acknowledging communications, etc.; and even during his last illness, when for several weeks he was suffering excruciating agony, he still continued with his editorial work until very shortly before his death. It is scarcely necessary to add that the Association has suffered an irreparable loss through his death, but his example in perseverance against almost insuperable difficulties, and his kind and courteous manner, will long survive in the memories of all who knew him.

In 1909 he married Margaret Scott, who, with a married daughter, survives him.

His body was cremated on October 17 at Putney Vale Crematorium; representatives from the Association (including the President), the Royal Astronomical Society, and the Royal Greenwich Observatory were present at the service in the Crematorium Chapel.—M.D.