



CATALOG DATA

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| Authorship | Grubb Telescope Company (1833). Created by Thomas Grubb (1800-1878) |
| Place of production | Dublin, Ireland |
| Place of origin | Astrophysics Collection, University of Valencia |
| Title / object name | <i>Grubb astronomical telescope</i> |
| Date | 1909 |
| Measurements | 250 x 220 x 78 cm |
| Materials / technique | Metalwork and optics. 6 inch aperture (156mm) 230cm focal length refractor with equatorial mount |
| Inventory No. | |
| Location in the museum | Astronomical Observatory Universitat de València |

DESCRIPTION

The Grubb telescope from 1909 is the jewel of the collection of instruments of the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Valencia. Despite the fire that occurred in the observatory of the historic building of La Nau in 1932, the telescope survived and today it is located under the dome of the Observatory in Blasco Ibáñez, Rectorate building. The construction of the telescope was commissioned to the Dublin Grubb telescope builders company. The company founded by Thomas Grubb made history in the world of astronomy by designing many of the most famous telescopes in the world.

The founder of the company was Thomas Grubb, an Irish engineer born in 1800 in Waterford, dedicated to the manufacture of machinery and printing presses. Interested in astronomy, in his spare time he built an observatory with a small telescope. This hobby made the project grow and he was acquiring skill in building larger telescopes with which he gained great fame. Soon his first commission arose: Edward Cooper commissioned him for his observatory at Markree Castle, Ireland, what would for several years be the largest refracting telescope in the world. In 1833, Thomas Romney Robinson, director of the Irish observatory at Armagh (known for inventing the anemometer), commissioned him with a 15-inch reflecting telescope. To build it Grubb introduced several important novelties,

The success of the commissions convinced Grubb to pursue it professionally and in 1833 he founded the Grubb Telescope Company in Dublin, specialized in large telescopes for the main observatories in the world. In 1865 his son Howard joined the society, who he directed when his father died in 1878, he won important contracts as the refractor of the Royal and

Imperial Observatory in Vienna. In 1921, the company was taken over by Sir Charles Parson, inventor of the steam turbine, whose father had built the world's largest telescope in 1845, the "Leviathan of Parsonstown." The 2 most important companies were thus united, the company was located in Newcastle, England, with the name of Grubb Parsons. In 1985 it closed permanently, its last telescope was the William Herschel of La Palma, Spain.

READING

Related Topic

Gender roles, Gender and space, Gender and history

Rereading

The Universitat de València accumulates a rich heritage of scientific instruments from all eras in its more than 500 years old. Part of this instrument belongs to the Astronomical Observatory, founded in 1909 by the professor of cosmography and physics of the Globe, Ignacio Tarazona Blanch (1859-1924). The astronomical collection contains 34 pieces from the 19th and 20th centuries. Among these instruments is the Grubb telescope from 1909, preserved in the current Rectorate building on Av. Blasco Ibáñez de València. The original office of Professor Tarazona with its restored furniture has also been located there, which was originally on La Nave Street, then the Observatory's headquarters. The Grubb telescope is located inside the dome that crowns the building.

The University of Valencia was linked to astronomy since its foundation, Jeroni Muñoz, one of the first scholars, professor of astronomy, mathematics and Hebrew, in 1572 he discovered a star in the constellation Cassiopeia and wrote a treatise commissioned by Felipe II. However, in those years there was no observatory at the university, it was installed during the rector Blasco's mandate thanks to the renewal impulse. Appointed rector for life to carry out his 1786 curriculum, he improved university facilities and began construction in 1790. During of Independence War, the university was bombed and part of the building was destroyed, including the Astronomical Observatory.

In 1909, following the trail of that pioneering observatory, Professor Ignacio Tarazona recovered the astronomical tradition at the university. Doctor of Exact Sciences, in 1906 he held the chair of cosmography and physics at the Globe at the University of Valencia. With his informative work, he managed to give public importance to academic activity and awaken interest in astronomy in Valencian society. In 1932 a fire broke out in the historic building that completely destroyed the center and many instruments, except the Grubb telescope. After a few years of inactivity, in 1946, the observatory was installed in the Sciences Faculty - current Rectorate building-. Although several directors gave it impetus, the activity declined and by the mid-1960s the facilities were badly damaged. In 1968, Professor Álvaro López took over, who recovered the center for research. He signed an agreement with the Valencian Astronomy Association for the creation of a joint center, and the Alto Turia Astronomical Center was born, in Aras de los Olmos.

In 2000, the rector's team gave impetus to the development of the Astronomical Observatory to turn it into a modern research center. Since the Observatory was founded in 1909, the center has had 9 directors, José Antonio Muñoz was appointed in 2020. No woman has held the position. Among the staff that currently integrates it there are 10 professors (high scale), no woman, only one University Head, Julia Suso. His Aula del Cel, an educational project on the didactics of Astronomy aimed at dissemination among the educational centers of the Valencian Community, is managed by three women: Mónica Pallardó is Didactic Coordinator, Xusa Moya Superior Technician, and Amelia Ortiz Gil, Superior Technician of Astronomy and PhD in Physical Sciences from the University of Valencia, who is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the SEA and National Coordinator of the Office for the Disclosure of Astronomy (OAO) of the International Astronomical Union in Spain. In 2009, on the occasion of the International Year of Astronomy Amelia Ortiz launched an informative project for people with visual disabilities at the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Valencia, which through the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has been extended to more than 30 countries.

Also in 2009, the IAU in Spain published a calendar honoring 12 women whose work at different times contributed to the development of astronomy. Women who have contributed to the conception we have of the Universe today and who deserve to occupy their place in history. Among those figures, some from Antiquity such as Hypatia of Alexandria, astronomer, mathematician and philosopher who practiced in the

Egyptian city during the 4th century; or Fátima de Madrid, Muslim astronomer whose life was spent in Córdoba in the X-XI centuries, the world center of knowledge. In modern times, the German Maria Winckelmann Kirch (1670-1720) stood out for being the first woman to discover a comet, she worked with her husband for the Berlin Academy of Sciences, although she never got an official appointment. An asteroid and a lunar crater are named after Nicole-Reine Lepaute (1723-1788) in recognition of her work. Caroline Lucretia Herschel (1750-1848) was the first professional astronomer in history when George III awarded her a salary of 50 pounds a year. Chinese astronomer Wang Xhenyi (1768-1797) studied lunar eclipses and collected atmospheric data to prevent droughts and floods. Maria Mitchell (1818-1889) was America's first academic astronomer and the first in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1848), founded the Association for the Advancement of Women. Annie Jump Cannon (1863-1941) was the first honorary doctorate from Oxford University (1925) and classified the spectra of more than 225,000 stars.

In 2008, the Women and Astronomy Commission of the Spanish Astronomy Society was created, dedicated to "promoting the visibility and participation of female astronomers in the activities of the Spanish astronomical community". Among these activities is the realization of statistics segregated by gender in the scientific committees, the elaboration of an equality plan of the SEA and the denunciation of inequalities in the framework of the investigation. In this sense, they study the glass ceiling in the field of astronomy, a concept that refers to the global percentage of women in a certain field when divided by the percentage on the highest scale. According to the latest SEA report presented by Francesca Figueras in Salamanca (2018), the percentage of astronomers with respect to the total is 27%. Regarding women in high positions on the research scale, only 13% compared to professors (high scale) and 11% among research professors. The most resounding figure is the 0% of women astronomers who are responsible for an observatory in Spain.

In recognition of her scientific work, the University of Valencia awarded an honorary doctorate to the American astronomer Virginia Trimble, an outstanding fighter for the equality of women in the world of research. In 2019, the Science and Gender Conference organized by the SEA with the participation of the Astronomical Observatory was held at the Universitat de València. They addressed aspects such as teaching, research and the dissemination of science from a gender perspective. And the work of many women in the field of science throughout history was rescued. Among its objectives, to provide information on successful female references and to analyze stereotypes and deep-rooted beliefs regarding the differences between men and women in the scientific field. In addition, strategies were presented to promote scientific vocations in girls and young women, which is essential to be able to develop science and astronomical activity in equality.

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