

15/13/50

Liberal Arts and Sciences

History Department

Sidney B. Gaythorpe Papers, 1903-1944, 1954-1955, 1961

Biographical Note

Gaythorpe, Sidney Bertram, amateur historian of astronomy; employed as a die engraver and draftsman in family business; interested in classics, mathematics, astronomy, photography, English literature and music.

Born February 5, 1880, Barrow-in-Furness

Died November 25, 1964, Barrow-in-Furness

Educated: Higher Grade School (now Barrow Grammar School)

Military Service: Stretcher-bearer in the First World War; Draughtsman for the Air Force

Member: British Astronomical Association, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society

Publications: Gaythorpe published papers in *the Journal of the British Astronomical Association* and the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*

“Gaythorpes’s contributions to astronomy were historical and his published papers in the Association’s *Journal* and the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* range from a method of working out the focal length and magnification of early telescopes from the descriptions of celestial objects by the observers that used them, to subjects like the astronomy in Virgil’s poetry...Gaythorpe’s main work was connected with Jeremiah Horrox, the brilliant young astronomer who lived from 1619 to 1641, and of whom Newton thought so highly,” Colin Ronan, “Obituaries Sidney Bertram Gaythorpe,” *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, 75 (June, 1965), 285-6.

Two of his papers are:

Gaythorpe, S. B., “On a method for deducing approximately the focal lengths and magnifying powers of early telescopes,” *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, v. 85, 659.

“On Horrock’s treatment of the evicton and the equation of the center, with a note on the elliptic hypothesis of Albert Curtz and its correction by Boulliau and Newton,” *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, v. 85, 858.