

## DIVISION XII

## UNION-WIDE ACTIVITIES

### *ACTIVITÉS D'INTÉRÊT GÉNÉRAL DE L'IAU*

Division XII consists of Commissions that formerly were organized under the Executive Committee, that concern astronomers across a wide range of scientific sub-disciplines and provide interactions with scientists in a wider community, including governmental organizations, outside the IAU.

#### **PRESIDENT**

**Virginia L. Trimble**

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Johannes Andersen**

#### **BOARD**

**Kaare Aksnes, Françoise Genova,  
Alexander A. Gurshtein, Sveneric Johansson,  
Jay M. Pasachoff, Malcolm G. Smith**

#### **DIVISION XII COMMISSIONS**

<b>Commission 5</b>	<b>Documentation and Astronomical Data</b>
<b>Commission 6</b>	<b>Astronomical Telegrams</b>
<b>Commission 14</b>	<b>Atomic and Molecular Data</b>
<b>Commission 41</b>	<b>History of Astronomy</b>
<b>Commission 46</b>	<b>Astronomy Education and Development</b>
<b>Commission 50</b>	<b>Protection of Existing and Potential Observatory Sites</b>

#### **INTER-DIVISION WORKING GROUP**

**Division X-XII WG**      **Historic Radio Astronomy**

#### **PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS MEETING on 23 August 2006**

A very brief Division XII meeting was held during the IAU XXVI General Assembly, which provided opportunities for the incoming presidents and vice-presidents of the individual Commissions and of the Division to get to know each other, to set up informal inter-Commission meetings during the General Assembly and to meet with – and thank – the outgoing Division president Virginia Trimble and vice-president Johannes Andersen. It was agreed that Commission 50 should seek ways to work more closely with the WG on *Radio Interference Mitigation* of Division X (*Radio Astronomy*).

Informal meetings, held later during the General Assembly, started to develop ways in which the various Commissions of this somewhat catchall Division can work more closely together. One possibility is to look for ways that each Commission and Working Group can unite, prepare for and contribute to the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. In this context it is clear that the new Commission 55 on *Communicating Astronomy with the Public* under the leadership of its first president, Ian Robson, is a particularly welcome addition to the Division.

The business and science covered in the individual Commissions is set out elsewhere in this publication, as are obituaries for two presidents of Commission 50, Jim Cohen and Hugo Schwarz, who have both died since the meeting in Prague.

Malcolm G. Smith  
*incoming president of the Division*