

Astronomische Gesellschaft



Ralf-Jürgen Dettmar

Astronomische Gesellschaft, R.-J. Dettmar

@Astronomy in Europe, Lorentz Center, Leiden January 2008

The AG

Since 1863, the Astronomische Gesellschaft is a professional society for astronomers.

Its primary activities today are:

- Organisation of scientific meetings
- Publication of scientific literature
- Promotion of young astronomers
- Awarding of prizes in recognition of outstanding scientific achievements
- Public outreach
- Promotion of astronomical education in schools



Organisation / Membership

- The AG is recognized as an affiliated society by the European Astronomical Society (EAS)
- Affiliated with the German Physical Society (DPG)
- The General Assembly elects the Executive Committee consisting of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Press officer and two members without office
- Currently, the AG has ~700 members, of which ~100 are (mostly grad) students

individual members only

budget based on membership fees and small endowment



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Publications

The AG regularly publishes the following journals:

- *Newsletter (twice a year)*
- *"Mitteilungen der AG"* including annual reports of astronomical institutions, the report of the Executive Committee, and on membership development, as well as obituaries
- *"Reviews in Modern Astronomy"* featuring the key note and highlight talks given at the meetings
- conference abstracts published in *'Astronomical Notes'* (however: last issue in 2007)



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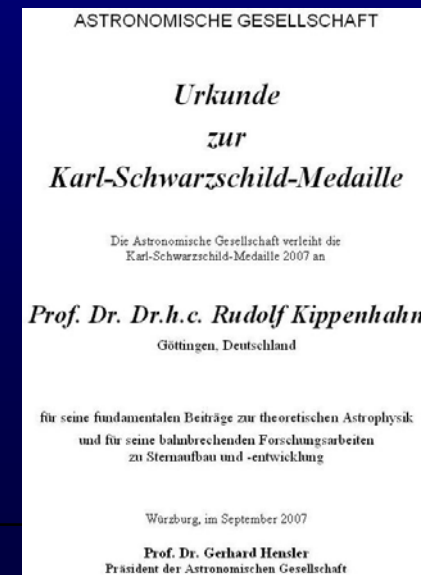
Awards I

The AG awards several prizes to honour persons with outstanding achievements in astronomy:

- *"Karl Schwarzschild Medal"* to recognize extraordinary scientific contributions (combined with the "Karl Schwarzschild Lecture")

Recent recipients:

- Rudolf Kippenhahn (2007)
- Gustav Andreas Tammann (2005)
- Riccardo Giacconi (2004)
- Erika Boehm-Vitense (2003)
- Charles H. Townes (2002)
- Keiichi Kodaira (2001)
- Roger Penrose (2000)



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Awards II

- *"Honorary membership"*
for exceptional services to the society
- *"Ludwig Biermann Award"* (since 1988)
to outstanding young astronomers
- *"Bruno B. Bürgel Prize"*
for excellent popular presentations of astronomical research results
- *"Hans-Ludwig Neumann Prize"*
(since 1996)
in recognition of the advancement of astronomy at schools
- In addition, the AG promotes pupils as part of the
"Jugend forscht Award" and invites the winners of the
geo/science section to the next annual meeting



Working groups

- *History of Astronomy (Astronomiae Historia)*

founded during the annual meeting of 1992

to provide information on the history of astronomy by editing publications and the undertaking of joint projects

→ <http://astrohist.org/>

- *School Commission*

constituted at the General Assembly of 2002

to initiate the education of astronomical topics in schools at a higher level, to generally increase the acceptance of natural sciences and to create a teacher network

→ <http://star-www.st-nd.ac.uk/~ch80/ALU/index.html>



Travel grants / Job Market

The AG supports young astronomers by travel grants that allow them to visit other institutions and attend conferences.

The Society compiles a free job register with vacancies and applications for a position in the field of astronomy.



www.astronomische-gesellschaft.org/Jobregister.html



- the Astronomische Gesellschaft is **not** representing its members towards authorities or funding agencies (multi-national „German speaking“ and other historical reasons „GDR“)
- the Council of German Observatories (Rat Deutscher Sternwarten RDS) is representing the astronomical research institutions

(35 institutions with ~700 permanent staff)

