

Society Report 2018  
Herschel Society of Japan  
Sadaharu UEHARA

We express our sincere appreciation for your invitation of this report as well as your longstanding friendship, particularly given by Mr Brian Robertson.

#### Personal affairs

We had no fresh member in the year.

#### Activities

- (1) A Society member Ms. Ai IJIMA studies on history of science from a viewpoint of gender. She contributed to the Newsletter of the History of Science Society of Japan with an article introducing the Herschel Museum of Astronomy at Bath in Japanese (\*1). She describes the history and several exhibitions of the museum in an easy-to-understand and attractive manner for Japanese who have never been there.

She had a speech on "scientific ladies" at a series of public lectures held by Yamato city (\*2). There, she introduced achievements of female scientists such as Caroline Herschel and Mary Summerville and discussed how they had been regarded by their societies. In the same lecture, the first era when people recognized the word of 'scientist'/'*kagaku-sha*', in each of the Western and Japanese languages, was discussed.

- (2) A Society member Sadaharu UEHARA is exploring the history of Uranus in Japan for the earliest acceptance of the discovery news and the first observations of the planet in Japan. Recently, he found a definitive previous research. According to the paper (\*3), Japanese astronomers met information of Uranus in a description written in a Dutch science textbook (\*4) in 1807, probably for the first time for them. According to the studies, his chronological table of Uranus in Japan has been filled considerably for the period from the first reception until the early observations (1807-26). He presented on this at a colloquium at his workplace (\*5) and has revised the document on the web page of our Society (\*6).

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#### References

(All the documents except \*4 are written in Japanese.)

\*1) A. Iijima, Kagaku-shi Tsuushin No.434, p.16, July 2018, The History of Science Society of Japan.

\*2) A. Iijima, “The history of science and women, success of scientific ladies”, “Scientists”, Adult education university of Yamato city, July 15, 2018, Yamato.

<http://www.city.yamato.lg.jp/web/content/000137580.pdf>

\*3) T. Yoshida, Studies in comparative culture **12**, 167 (1972), College of Arts and Science, The University of Tokyo.

<https://ndlonline.ndl.go.jp/#!/detail/R300000002-I354296-00>

\*4) J. Buijs, “Natuurkundig schoolboek”, published by D. Du Mortier en zoon, Leyden, 1800. <https://books.google.co.jp/books?id=DRIOAAAAQAAJ>

\*5) S. Uehara, a talk at the 2<sup>nd</sup> colloquium of KEK archives office, February 8, 2018, Tsukuba. <https://www2.kek.jp/archives/projects/danwa-img/danwakai02.pdf>

\*6) S. Uehara, “Reception of Uranus in Japan”, Digital Archives of the Herschel Society of Japan (2018).

[http://www.ne.jp/asahi/mononoke/ttnd/herschel/a-text/Uranus\\_in\\_Japan2.0.htm](http://www.ne.jp/asahi/mononoke/ttnd/herschel/a-text/Uranus_in_Japan2.0.htm)