What's New? - 2006

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December 8	*New* "US Naval Observatory II" page added: usno2.htm Over 150 images from the archives of the United States Naval Observatory Library chronicle the 19th century expeditions to time the transit of Venus around the globe. Images include rare photos, handwritten notes, stereographic cards, log entries, and diagrams.
November 27	Links added to "Transit of Mercury Images" page: • http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap061125.html 3D composite of the sun and Mercury, to be viewed through red/blue glasses; by Greg Piepol. • http://77illinois.homestead.com/files/pics/transit2.html Images from Nevada; by Bart Benjamin.
November 20	Links added to "Transit of Mercury" page: • mercury-images.htm Images of the 2006 transit of Mercury as seen at a public gathering in Mishawaka, IN. • http://www.spaceweather.com/eclipses/gallery_08nov06.htm Collection of images of the transit of Mercury as seen from around the world.
November 8	Transit of Mercury Link added to "Transit of Mercury" page: http://www.williams.edu/astronomy/eclipse/transits/transitofmercury.htm Jay Pasachoff and Glenn Schneider explore the science of the inner planets during transits. For the 2006 Mercury transit, they will "attempt to measure the sodium component of Mercury's extremely tenuous 'atmosphere,' measure its height, and determine how it varies from Mercury's pole to its equator. They will additionally use the polarimetry capability of the instrument to try to detect the weak Mercurian magnetic field against that of the Sun." See November 2006 press release for event details, as they will be part of webcast from Hawaii. Added to "Air/Space Autographs" page: phm/autographs.htm Autographed photos of the following key figures are among the collection at the PHM Planetarium & Air/Space Museum: • Lieut. Gen. James H. Doolittle • Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker • Jerry L. Ross • Neil Armstrong • Orville Wright • Dr. Wernher von Braun • Milton O. Thompson
	New "View the Transit" page added: mercury-view.htm • http://sunearthday.nasa.gov/2007/events/mercurytransit.php See "Local Happenings" on left navigation bar for events in your area. Because observing opportunities are rapidly growing as the November 8, 2006, transit of Mercury approaches, we encourage organizers to list their event at the NASA Sun-Earth "Local Happenings." • phm/mercury.htm The PHM Planetarium in Mishawaka, IN, will have a special program on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. that will convey the significance of the transit of Mercury, what observers can expect to see, and insight into the planet closest to the sun. On Wednesday, November 8, 2006, the planetarium will set up solar-filtered telescopes for the public to view the transit of Mercury. • http://astroday.net/MercTransit06.html Mercury Transit Hawaiian Style offers webcasts through multiple telescopes and wavelengths (including attitude). "Learn about solar research on Maui, image restoration algorithms, the NASA Messenger mission to Mercury, total

November 3	solar eclipse experiments in Libya, Hawaiian cultural astronomy and much, much more." • **http://www.slooh.com/transit.php** Slooh.com,a live online observatory, will have a free page of the entire 5 hour transit with live commentary. David Levy, Eli Maor, and Bob Berman will be among the many astronomers and authors broadcasting during the live web show. Links added to "**Transit of Mercury**" page: • **http://messenger.jhuapl.edu/** Messenger is a NASA Discovery mission to conduct the first orbital study of the innermost planet. Now en route, the spacecraft will be inserted into orbit around Mercury in March 2011. • **http://www.seds.org/nineplanets/nineplanets/mercury.html** Background on Mercury and our scientific understanding of the planet, with emphasis on images returned from the Mariner 10 spacecraft. Note: Software, hardware, and time are not allowing all additions to be published at this time. Sorry about the limitations on adding new material as the transit of Mercury approaches.
November 1	Added to "**Air/Space Autographs**" page: **phm/autographs.htm** Autographed photos of the following key figures are among the collection at the PHM Planetarium & Air/Space Museum: • Charles Sweeney and Fred Olivi • Col. Francis "Gabby" Gabreski • David Scott • Eugene Cernan • Ron Evans • Charles Duke • James Lovell • Eugene Krantz • John Young • Don Knotts • Spaceship One team • Burt Rutan • Liwei Yang • Nie Haishang and Fei Junlong • "Original 14" Taikonauts
October 30	Links added to "**Transit of Mercury**" page: • **http://nasadln.nmsu.edu/dln/content/catalog/details/?cid=546** NASA coverage of the transit of Mercury features a live webcast, a panel of scientists sharing their expertise, and lesson plans. Targets students and informal educators for grades 5-8; from the NASA Digital Learning Network. • **http://www.exploratorium.edu/transit/** The Exploratorium will provides a live webcast of the transit of Mercury from Kitt Peak. Additionally, animation shows Mercury passing between earth and sun during Mercury's orbits around the sun. • **mercury-eckstein.htm** Auction item: Eckstein's painting of "The Transit of Mercury, on the 7th of May 1799."
October 20	Link added to "**Transit of Mercury**" page: **http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/special/index.shtml** The Adler Planetarium in Chicago will be hosting a special Transit of Mercury observing event on Nov. 8 from 1 pm - 4 pm featuring telescope observing and live webcasts of the transit from other locations.
October 18	Images added to "**Transit of Mercury**" page: **mercury.htm** • **mercury1878cover.jpg** Reports on Telescopic Observations of the Transit of Mercury, May 5-6, 1878. Includes individual reports from Asaph Hall, William Harkness, J.R. Eastman, Edward S. Holden, and Dr. Henry Draper. • **mercury-1878fig2.jpg** The moment of true contact occurs when the undulaation of true sunlight across the dark space is just beginning. • **mercury-draper_obs.jpg** Arrangement of the instruments and telescope at Dr. Henry Draper's Observatory • **mercury-irradiation.jpg** The **black drop effect** is attributed to "a very variable amount of irradiation of bright images on the retina," though with caveats.
October 16	Link added to "**Transit of Mercury**" page: **www.thechildrensmuseumct.org** The Children's Museum of West Hartford, CT, will offer telescope viewing, a live webcast in the planetarium, Starlab programs on Mercury and transits, and children's crafts.
October 11	Item added to "**Transit of Mercury**" page: **mercury.htm** The PHM Planetarium in Mishawaka, IN, will have solar-filtered telescopes available for the public to view the November 8, 2006, transit of Mercury.
September 30	Link added to "**Transit of Mercury**" page: **http://home.hetnet.nl/~smvanroode/mercury.html** Find out if you will be able to see Mercury during the November 8, 2006, transit; compute your local circumstances by adding your latitude and longitude. From Steven van Roode.
September 29	Image added to "**Transit of Mercury**" page: **doppel-mercury.jpg** In 1742, Johann Doppelmayer features transits of Mercury and Venus in *Atlas Coelestis* while describing phenomena associated with the inferior planets (Plate 7). Doppelmayer illustrates the path of Mercury across the face of the sun for the November 6, 1720, transit of Mercury.
September 19	New "**Transit of Mercury**" page added: **mercury.htm** A transit of Mercury will be visible around much of the world on November 8, 2004. Details, local observing opportunities,

	images of past transits of Mercury, and safe viewing techniques are addressed. As new events are planned and announced they will appear at **mercury.htm**.
September12	New "**ISS Transit**" page added: **iss.htm** Witness the International Space Station (ISS) transiting the sun through a rear projection screen that was made for the transit of Venus.
September 1	Link added to "**Home**" page: **http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/OH/transit06.html** Special Announcement: A transit of Mercury will occur Wednesday, November 8, 2006. Image added to "**Miscellaneous**" page: **stereocard-camp.jpg** Stereocard: American Views, Popular Series, Transit of Venus Expedition, Chatham Island, No. 10128, titled: "The Camp, Wangaroa Bay."
August 18	Images added to "**Miscellaneous**" page: **stereocard6_pix.jpg** and **stereocard6_text.jpg** *Rollins' Transit Series* of stereocards features images from Kerguelen Island in 1874. The text notes, "Ship, English vessel, one mile in Royal Sound...There were 73 days of snow and rain during the 84 days the party remained there, and the mercury ranged from 8 degrees to 23 degrees below zero."
August 13	Added to "**Miscellaneous**" page: • **bronze_medal.JPG** and **bronze_medal_back.JPG** A bronze medal by A. Dubois commemorates the 1882 transit of Venus. In legend : QVO ° DISTENT ° SPATIO ° SIDERA ° IVNCTA ° DOCENT. Inscription in five lines : INSTITUT DE FRANCE / ACADEMIE DES SCIENCES / PASSAGE DE VENUS / SUR LE SOLEIL / 6 DECEMBRE 1882. Courtesy of Art Medals. • **crosby.jpg** Harry Crosby publishes his poetry in *Transit of Venus* from Black Sun Press in 1929. Shown is the poem "First Meeting" ("lorsque Vénus est tout entière entrée dans le disque"). Courtesy of John Breckenridge. Link added to "**Images**" page: **http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~ipswich/Observations/ToV/ToV.htm** Observers affiliated with the Orwell Park Observatory (U.K.) sketch and photograph the transit and analyze their timings. Image added to "**Historic**" page: **matavai.gif** 18th century view of Matavai Bay, Tahiti, at which Cook observed the transit. Link added to "**Shop**" page: **http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~ipswich/Observations/ToV/Plates.htm** The Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich) in Suffolk (UK) offers its members (and limited ebay sales of) a commemorative bone china plate.
August 12	The ***Lighting Issues*** features now reside at **www.nightwise.org**.
April 10	Link added to "**Images**" page: **http://www2.eng.cam.ac.uk/~hemh/transit.htm** Dr. Hugh Hunt uses a modified "pinhole camera" to project an image of a transiting Venus into a darkened room at Trinity College Cambridge.
March 9	Links added to "**Lighting Issues**" page: • **http://www.globe.gov/GaN/observe.html** Family Packet for *Globe at Night* is online. Event is March 22-29, 2006. • **http://www.globe.gov/GaN/teacher_download.html** Teacher Packet for *Globe at Night* is online. Event is March 22-29, 2006.
February 10	Links added to "**Lighting Issues**" page: • **http://www.globe.gov/GaN/index.html** Globe at Night is a worldwide campaign to observe and record the magnitude of visible stars as a means of measuring light pollution in a given location. Join this project of coordinated observations **March 22-29, 2006.** Website has an effective simulator to show the limiting magnitudes of stars in the constellation Orion. • **http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20060107/bob9.asp** Long-term study suggests that bright light at night is a risk factor for breast cancer. Apparently light suppresses the nighttime production of melatonin, a hormone that has slowed breast cancer growth in lab experiments. • **http://www.urbanwildlands.org/Resources/LongcoreRich2004.pdf** Paper addresses subtle ecological consequences of night lighting. Link added to "**Solutions**" page: **http://www.softlite.com/** Soft Lighting Systems claims its sports facility lights permit no direct light above the horizon.
January 29	Added to "**Countdown**" page: **countdown.htm** Pictures of "Countdown to *Science Alive*" show Orion the Hunter, "Albie" Einstein, and Sally Ride sharing their respective stories. Library visitors enjoy viewing stars in a planetarium and planets through telescopes, in spite of the rain.
	Links added to "**Lighting Issues**" page:

January 19	**lights.htm** The loss of the night sky in less than a century and a half is strikingly evident from these illustrations of the stars and the Milky Way over London and over Paris. • **http://www.atlascoelestis.com/22.htm** *The Midnight Sky, London, 1869*, Edwin Dunkin. • **http://www.atlascoelestis.com/guil%2025.htm** *Le Ciel, Paris 1866,* Amédée Guillemin.

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