OBITUARY

Alan Henry Batten (*1933–2024*)

Alan Batten was born in Whitstable, Kent, on 1933 January 21. He was educated at Wolverhampton Grammar School and the Universities of St. Andrews (BSc 1955, DSc 1974) and Manchester (PhD 1958) and went to Canada in 1959 as a post-doctoral fellow at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, B.C., joining the permanent staff there in 1961. He remained on the staff until retirement in 1991 and continued as a guest worker until 2011, and was still publishing papers in 2024. It was at the DAO that he became established as an authority on binary stars, writing *Binary and Multiple Systems of Stars* (Pergamon, 1973) and one of the team compiling the vital *Catalogues of the Orbital Elements of Spectroscopic Binary Systems*. He served as President of the Canadian Astronomical Society in 1972–74 and of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada from 1976–78. From 1980–1988 he was the Editor of the latter Society's journal. He also served as a Vice-President of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (1964–66) and of the International Astronomical Union (1985–91). In 1977 he was elected to Fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada and served on the Council of that Society, and was also a long-time Fellow of the RAS. From 1992 to 2002 he represented the International Astronomical Union by visiting astronomers in developing countries. He also held visiting appointments at the Vatican Observatory in Castelgandolfo, Italy (1970), the Instituto de Astronomia y Fisica del Espacio in Buenos Aires (1972), and was an Erskine Visiting Fellow at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand (1995). Locally, he has been a sessional lecturer in both astronomy and history in the University of Victoria. A warm-hearted and generous colleague who will be greatly missed, this 'English gentleman' passed away after a short illness on 2024 July 30.

Here and There

FOR OBSERVATIONS OF PISCES, PRESUMABLY

The private observatory at Dun Echt, 12 miles east of Aberdeen. — *The Observatory*, **144**, 55, 2024.

A WOBBLY NUMBER

Follow-up observations of HD 114762 with the Lick telescope determined its mass to be around 0.8 solar masses and the amplitude of its wobble to be just over 600 km/s. — *The Antiquarian Astronomer*, 2023 June (17), p.58.