

## **Michael Hoskin: 2020 Agnes Mary Clerke Medal**

Dr Michael Hoskin is one of the most notable historians of astronomy in the UK. His work in the field of archaeoastronomy (astronomy in prehistory), where he has personally measured the orientations of some two thousand European and African dolmens, has gained international recognition.

Dr Hoskin is a former President of the History of Astronomy Commission of the International Astronomical Union. He was Head of the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science and taught history of astronomy at Cambridge University for over thirty years. He founded the journal for the History of Astronomy and has served as editor and associate editor since then and he is currently the Hon. Vice President of the Society for the History of Astronomy.

Dr Hoskin, primarily an historian of stellar astronomy, has made significant contributions in producing some of the key general reference works in the history of astronomy. In particular, Hoskin has a great interest in the Herschel family, publishing extensively on their achievements.

He has tracked down manuscripts, letters, observing books and other documents in academic archives around Europe and the USA, as well as those in the possession of the Herschel family and in private hands elsewhere. Hoskin has brought a richness of detail and nuance to the story of Caroline Herschel, from being the family household's maid-of-all-work in Hanover to gold-medal-winning astronomer and so firmly establishing the context for the most extraordinary partnership in astronomy ever known.

For these reasons, Dr Michael Hoskin is awarded the Agnes Mary Clerke Medal.

### **Short citation**

Dr Michael Hoskin is primarily an historian of stellar astronomy with a particular interest in, and publishing extensively on, the achievements of the Herschel family. Hoskins also works in the field of archaeoastronomy, where his measurements of the orientations of some two thousand European and African dolmens have gained international recognition.

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