

The Astronomy Genealogy Project: It's more than just tracing your ancestry

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The Astronomy Genealogy Project ("AstroGen"), a project of the Historical Astronomy Division (HAD), will soon appear on the AAS website (<https://astrogen.aas.org/>). Ultimately, it will list the world's astronomers with their highest degrees, titles of theses for those who wrote them, academic advisors, universities, and links to the astronomers or their obituaries, their theses when online, and more. At present the AstroGen team is working on those who earned doctorates with astronomy-related theses. We show what can be learned already, with twelve countries essentially complete and about 19,000 theses recorded. For the twelve countries—Australia, Canada, Chile, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States—half of the theses have been submitted since 1999, and more than 60% are online. We will present information comparing countries, universities, and eras. Nearly all information has been gathered online, and there is much more available. We are seeking people with knowledge of the languages and academic cultures of other countries to join us.

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What is AstroGen?

The Astronomy Genealogy Project is patterned after the Mathematics Genealogy Project

We will list the world's astronomers with

Name, dates

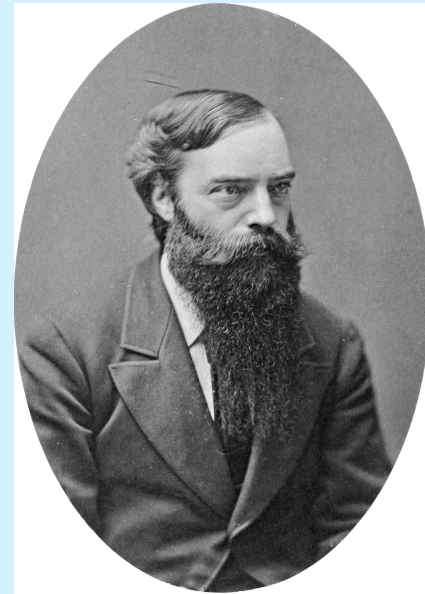
Highest degree, university, year, thesis title, advisor(s)

Links to theses, home pages or obituaries, universities

What have we accomplished so far?

We have entered more than 20,000 theses.

including nearly all who have earned modern doctorates with astronomy-related theses in 12 countries.



Arthur Wright
Ph.D., Yale, 1861

12 countries, 20 725 theses

Theses online	
Free to all	35%
On ProQuest	26%
Online, restricted	3%
Not online	36%

Advisors	
Known	81%
Unknown	19%

Country	Pop (m)	Univ	Degrees
Australia	24	17	702
Canada	36	23	830
Chile	18	3	37
Ireland	5	6	103
Netherlands	17	8	939
New Zealand	5	4	84
Norway	5	3	74
South Africa	56	7	97
Spain	47	27	1 087
Sweden	10	8	363
UK	65	52	3 522
US	325	158	12 890
Total	614	294	20 725

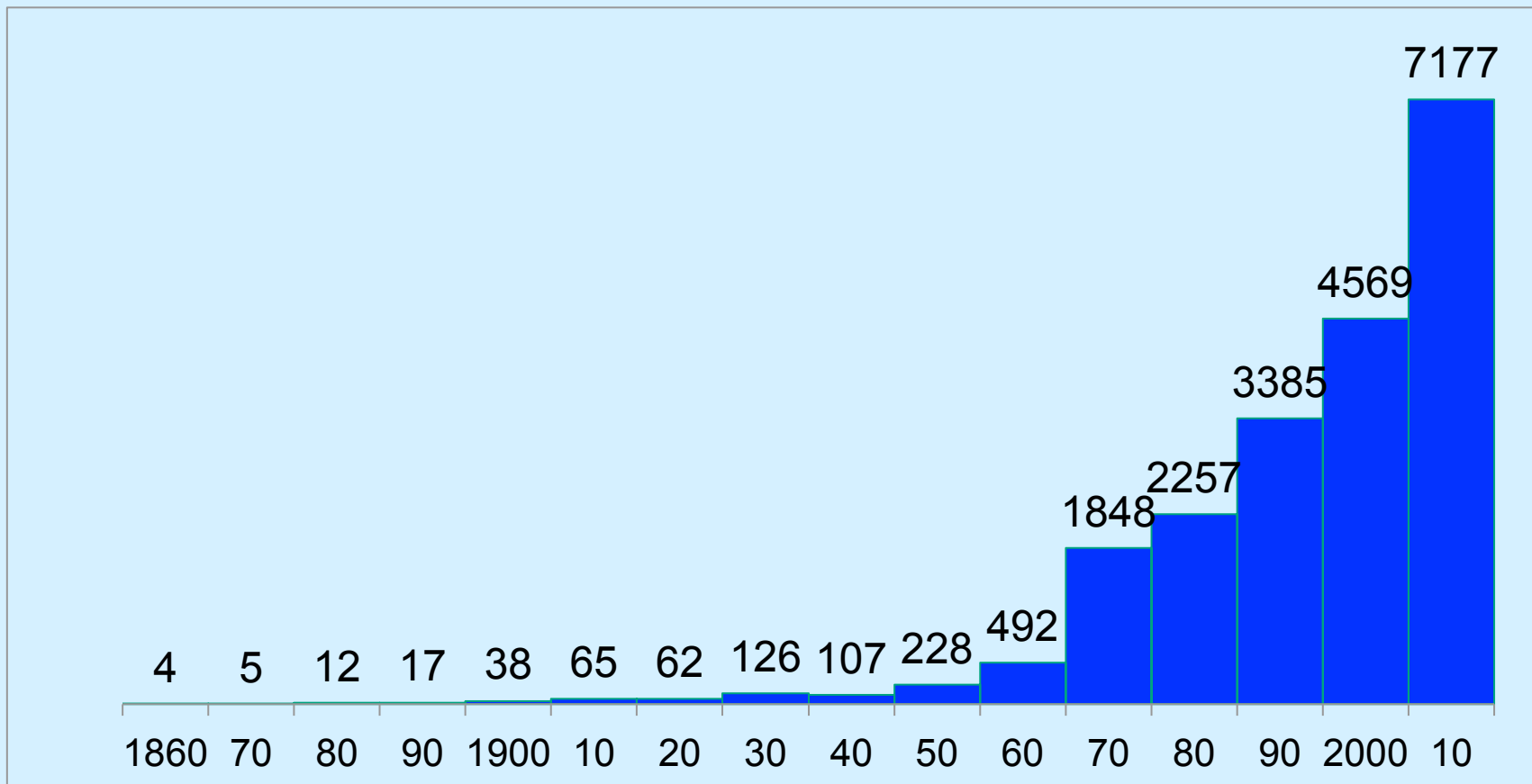
Universities/pop (m)	
Ireland	1.25
All 12	0.51
South Africa	0.13

Doctorates/pop (m)	
Netherlands	55
All 12	34
South Africa	2

Doctorates/univ	
Netherlands	117
All 12	66
Chile	12

Year of doctorate		
	First	Median
US	1861	1997
All 12	1861	1999
Chile	2004	2012

Number of doctorates by decade



18 universities produced 36% of Ph.D.s

UC Berkeley	653	Princeton	389
Caltech	565	Colorado Boulder	379
Cambridge	535	MIT	366
Arizona	512	Cornell	342
Harvard	496	Leiden	333
Chicago	458	Wisconsin-Madison	321
Texas at Austin	412	Michigan	320
Univ Coll London	420	Manchester	317
Maryland, Coll Park	398	UCLA	316

out of 294 universities in the 12 countries

Join us. You can help

advise on decision-making and formats

design pages or a logo

organize the list of universities

Work on quality control

enter more theses

from a university library to which you have access
or from the web.

Contributors

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