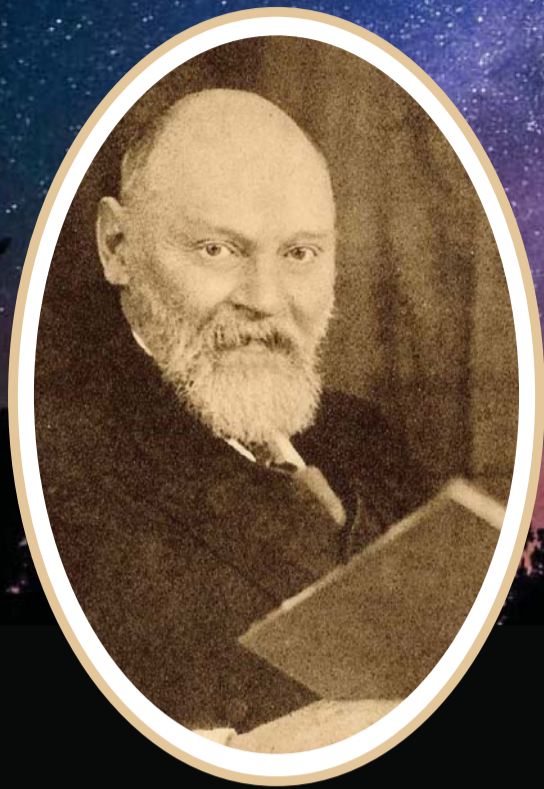


# 'The Comet Man'

Andrew Claude de la Cherois Crommelin (1865-1939)



Upon graduating from Cambridge, Andrew de la Cherois Crommelin first joined the teaching staff of Lancing College, before being appointed as an assistant at the Royal Greenwich Observatory in 1891. There, Crommelin began a distinguished career in astronomy which has earned him today the nickname 'The Comet Man'. He is perhaps best known for predicting the return of Halley's Comet in 1910 and for his solar observations in 1919 which proved crucial in confirming the General Theory of Relativity proposed by Albert Einstein three years earlier.

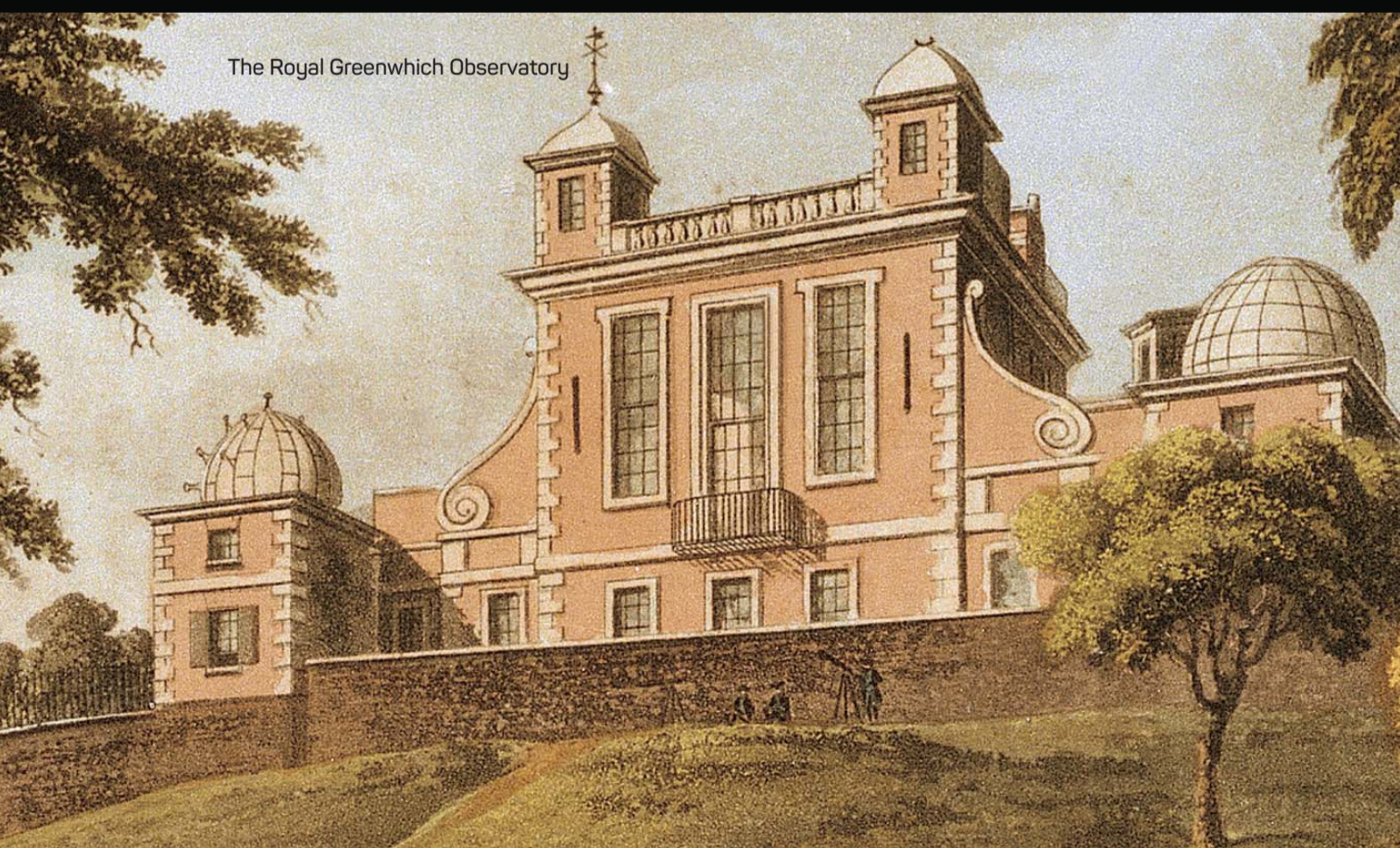
Furthermore, his calculations of the orbits of three separate comets (Pons 1818, Coggia-Winnecke 1873 and Forbes 1928) showed that they were, in fact, the same periodic comet which returned every 27.4 years. In 1956, he was posthumously honoured when the comet was renamed in his honour (27P/Crommelin). Three other astronomic objects have been named in his honour: the Crommelin crater on the Moon; the Crommelin crater on Mars; and Asteroid 1899 Crommelin.

Over the course of his career, Crommelin was awarded the Lindemann Prize of the Astronomische Gesellschaft of the University of Jena and the Prix Jules Janssen, the highest award of the French astronomical society. He received the Goodacre Medal in recognition of his contribution to the progress of astronomy over many years.

*'Great astronomers like Crommelin must never be forgotten. It is their work that has paved the way to our modern knowledge of astronomy.'*

'The Comet Man' A. C. D. Crommelin, B. A., D. Sc., F. R. A. S. by John Fletcher, Mount Tuffley Observatory.

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