

Investigation on past solar activities using historical documents from the East and the West

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We present the results of our survey of the records of low-latitude auroras in the historical documents, from east Asia (China, Korea and Japan) and from the West (Europe and middle east). The main results includes: discovery of the oldest datable auroras from Babylonia, discovery of the oldest sketch of dated aurora, east Asian aurora records of the Carrington event in 1859, and simultaneous observation of low latitude aurora in Europe and in Korea possibly connected to the intense cosmic-ray event in 994. We also discuss the difference of people's response to the anomalous heavenly events in different time and place, and its implication to science communication with public.

Keywords: aurora, solar activity, historical documents