

## Alvin Clark and Sons, Inc.

Alvin Clark and Sons, Inc., was the world's preeminent telescope maker during the later half of the 19th century. For this reason, Clark Refracting Telescopes have a very special place in the history of astronomy. Deborah Jean Warner of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., has spent three decades researching the Clarks, and the telescopes they made, which include the three largest refracting telescopes in the world: the 40-inch refractor at the Yerkes Observatory<sup>1</sup> in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, completed in 1898; the 36-inch Lick Refractor (See facing page) on Mount Hamilton in California, completed in 1888; and the 30-inch refractor at the Imperial Russian Observatory at Pulkowa, completed in 1883.

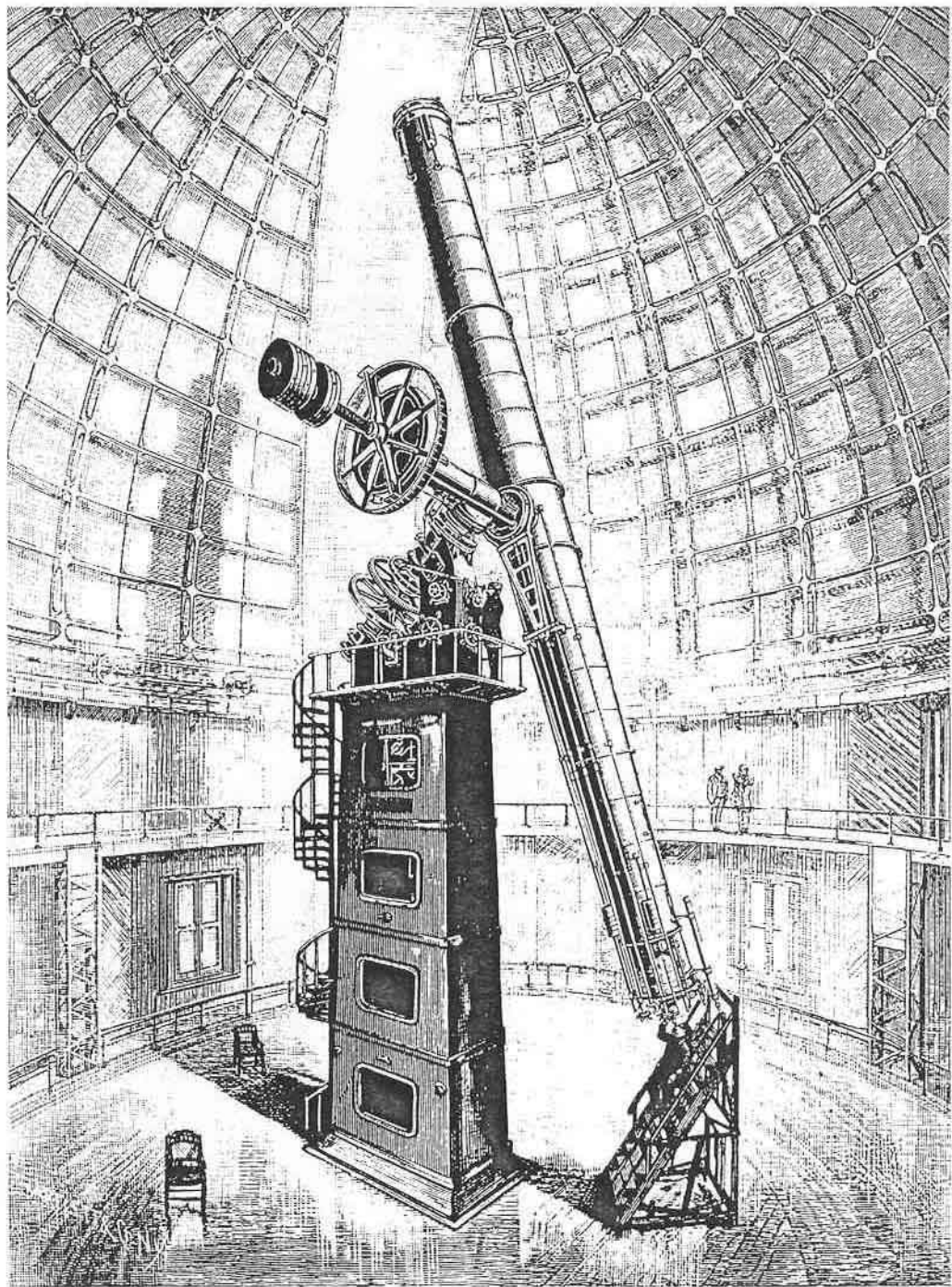
The following is a partial list of additional institutions where permanent observatories were built to house refracting telescopes which were built entirely, or in part, by Alvin Clark & Sons, Inc. The date of telescope acquisition, and the diameter of the telescope objective lens, is given for each telescope.<sup>2</sup>

Albion College, 1883, 8-inch	Leiden Univ., Netherlands, 1885, 10.5-inch
Amherst College, 1854, 7.25-inch	Louisiana State Univ., 1939, 11.5-inch
Annapolis, 1857, 7.75-inch	Univ. of Louisville, 1946, 12-inch
Beloit College, 1883, 9.5-inch	Lowell Observatory, 1894, 24-inch
Bowdoin College, 1915, 6.25-inch	Univ. of Maine, Orono, 1900, 8-inch
Bucknell Univ., 1885, 10-inch	Univ. of Michigan, 1880, 6-inch
Carlton College, 1878, 8.25-inch	Univ. of Wisc.-Milwaukee, 1880, 5-inch
Columbia Univ., 1872, 12.375-inch	Mt. Holyoke College, 1880, 8-inch
Dartmouth College, 1871, 9.4-inch	Northwestern Univ., 1862, 18.5-inch
Univ. of Denver, 1894, 20-inch	Univ. of the Pacific, 1885, 6-inch
Depauw Univ., 1885, 9.53-inch	Princeton Univ., 1887, 23-inch
Doane College, 1884, 8-inch	Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1867, 13-inch
Emory Univ., 1901, 6-inch	Rockford College, 1883, 5.75-inch
Franklin & Marshall, 1885, 11-inch	Swarthmore College, 1886, 6-inch
Grinnell College, 1888, 8-inch	Syracuse Univ., 1887, 8-inch
Harvard Univ., 1894, 24-inch	U.S. Naval Observatory, 1873, 26-inch
Haverford College, 1880, 8.25-inch	Vassar College, 1865, 12.5-inch
Illinois State Univ. at Normal, 1882, 5-inch	Univ. of Vienna, Austria, 1873, 12-inch
Univ. of Kansas, 1885, 6-inch	Univ. of Virginia, 1884, 26-inch
Kenyon College, 5.5-inch	Wellesley College, 12-inch
Queens Univ. at Kingston, 1885, 6.25-inch	Wesleyan Univ., 1921, 20-inch
Lawrence University, 1891, 10-inch	Williams College, 1852, 7.5-inch
Lehigh Univ., 1868, 6-inch	Univ. of Wisconsin, 1872, 15.56-inch

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<sup>1</sup> The telescope tube of the Yerkes refractor is 60 feet long!

<sup>2</sup> *Alvin Clark & Sons: Artists in Optics*, 2nd Edition, Deborah Jean Warner and Robert B. Ariail, Willmann-Bell, Inc., in association with the National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution, 1995.



*The Lick 36-inch Clark refractor circa 1886.*