

ESO staff members in the architect's office, during the morning of 9.11.1979.

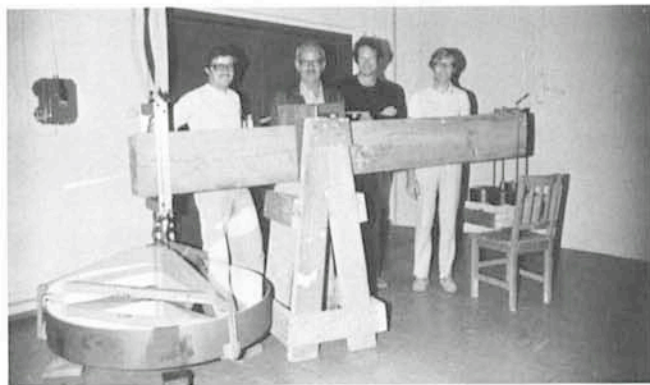
NEWS and NOTES

Heavyweight Technology on La Silla

In our article on recent improvements in the optical quality of the La Silla telescopes in the *Messenger* No. 16, we mentioned the wonderful balance constructed by our colleague Jan van der Ven. This had been used to weigh the optical elements of the Schmidt telescope and was pressed into service again for weighing the primary of the 1 m photometric telescope, an operation necessary for optimizing the support system in view of doubts about the mirror's theoretical weight.

Jan has found a photograph showing this remarkable weighing operation and we print it here to prove that the La Silla technology is, indeed, very solidly based:

From left to right in the picture: The 1 m mirror freshly washed; Paul Giordano (Optics group, La Silla); Jan van der Ven (Mechanics group, La Silla); Ray Wilson and Francis Franza (Optics group, Geneva).



The result: weight of the 1 m primary = $346.1 \text{ kg} \pm 2 \text{ kg}$. The theoretical value was 344.6 kg —remarkably good agreement.

Further investigation of the effects of the secondary mount of the 1 m telescope is under way as well as a complete analysis and optical overhaul of the 1.5 m spectroscopic telescope. This work will be reported in a future issue of the *Messenger*.

Ray Wilson

ESO Workshop on Two-dimensional Photometry

An ESO Workshop on Two-dimensional Photometry was held in Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands, on 22–24 November 1979 in collaboration with Sterrewacht Leiden. Approximately 90 astronomers attended the $2\frac{1}{2}$ days of meetings. A total of 39 papers were read including 9 invited reviews. The first few talks covered the optical instruments available for acquiring the desired data and for putting them in a digital format for subsequent analysis. One session was devoted to the techniques of data analysis and the kinds of computers and displays which seem desirable for aiding analysis. The final sessions dealt more explicitly with the scientific programmes which could be or are being pursued. One afternoon was reserved for an excursion to the Leiden Observatory facilities including the "Astroscan" and the "Comtal" display.

It was obvious that this was a timely meeting. Some astronomers are already making good use of the new facilities and techniques which are available, and many astronomers are anxious to do the same. The "summer camp" atmosphere of the conference centre allowed for a great deal of informal exchanges in addition to the formal programme.

The proceedings of this workshop will be published by ESO and should be available by March 1980. Copies of the proceedings can be obtained by writing to the Scientific Group Secretary, Mrs. R. van Doesburg at ESO, c/o CERN, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland.

P. Crane