

the recession velocity is found to be around  $76,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Furthermore, with a Hubble constant of  $50 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ , the distance becomes 1,500 Mpc, or almost exactly  $5 \times 10^9$  lightyears.

The Hubble constant is not known with very high accuracy and this calculation may well be wrong by 20% or even more. Nevertheless, it is thought-evoking to look at this cluster and to remember that the presently estimated age of the Earth is also close to  $5 \times 10^9$  years. The photons that hit the Reticon spectrograph had been travelling ever since the Earth was formed, just to deliver their message about their place of origin. Without being philosophical, it almost hurts the heart to think about those photons that arrived a few seconds after the shutter had been closed...

R. West

## La Silla in the Sky

Attentive readers of the "Minor Planet and Comet Circulars" from the Minor Planet Bureau will have noticed that the December 1, 1979 issue contains reference to a newly-discovered minor planet, 1976 UH, that has now been numbered (2187) on page 5036 and also named LA SILLA on page 5039.

The dedication reads: "Named after the mountain in the Chilean Atacama desert on top of which is situated the European Southern Observatory." It is interesting to note that the size of the new planet is not too different from the La Silla Mountain, and—in view of the ever-increasing risk of (light and atmospheric) pollution that threatens many observatories (although certainly *not* the ESO establishment at the present time), one wonders whether one is here witnessing an extreme example of very long-term planning?!

(From our South America correspondent)

## A New Bright Seyfert 1 Galaxy

Yet another new Seyfert 1 galaxy has been found on the ESO(B) Atlas of the Southern Sky. The object, ESO 012-G21, was first listed in ESO/Uppsala list No. 6 (1978, *Astron. & Astrophys. Suppl.*, **34**, 285) and is here shown in a reproduction from a 30-min electrograph obtained with the 4 cm McMullan camera at the Cassegrain focus of the Danish 1.5 m telescope (La Silla) by Dr. P. Grosbøl.



The galaxy has a rather bright nucleus which is surrounded by diffuse (spiral?) features. UBV photometry was carried out by Dr. C. Sterken with the 61 cm Bochum telescope at La Silla during three nights and a mean apparent magnitude of 14.5 in V was found. Spectra were obtained by Dr. R. West with the 100 inch Las Campanas telescope and the Reticon spectrograph and the redshift was about  $z = 0.03$ . With a Hubble constant of  $50 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ , this gives an absolute magnitude of  $M_V \sim -22$ . The galaxy is therefore among the intrinsically most luminous Seyferts and, due to its relatively small distance, it is still possible to investigate in some detail the "fuzz" that surrounds the nucleus.

It is not excluded that ESO 012-G21 has been detected as an X-ray source, but due to confusion around this sky area, further observations are necessary to confirm this.



Minor planet (2187) = LA SILLA as seen on a recent plate, obtained with the ESO 1 m Schmidt telescope (60 min. IIIa-F + RG 630). The planet was discovered with this telescope on October 24th, 1976 by ESO astronomer R. West.

## Instrumentation Schedule

This is an updated time schedule for the major instruments which are being developed at ESO in Geneva for use on the 3.6 m telescope. See also *Messenger* No. 15, p. 10. Target date is the date of "first light". Regular use starts about half a year later.

### Triplet Adapter (M. Tarengi, M. Ziebell).

First tests on the telescope were made in September 1979. Further tests will be carried out end November 1979 together with the first tests of the

### 4 cm McMullan Camera (K. Klim).

Regular use of this equipment by visiting astronomers starts in April 1980. For more details see articles in this *Messenger*.

### Coudé Echelle Scanner (CES) (D. Enard, J. Andersen (Copenhagen), A. Danks). Target date: June 1980.

Instrument to record very high resolution digital spectra (up to 100,000) on a 1972-channel-DIGICON or Reticon detector. Availability of Digicon is still uncertain. Double-pass scanning mode permitting calibrations on bright objects with very clean instrumental profile. For more details see *Messenger* No. 11, p. 22 and No. 17, p. 32.

### Coudé Auxiliary Telescope (CAT) (T. Andersen, M. Dennefeld). Target date: June 1980.

1.5 m spectroscopic telescope feeding CES of the 3.6 m telescope. Three-mirror alt-alt telescope with  $f/120$  ( $f/32$  after focal reducer). Dall-Kirkham optics with spherical secondary. Direct drive servos without gear. For more details see *Messenger* No. 10, p. 21 and No. 16, p. 37.

### Infrared Top-End (R. Grip, P. Salinari). Target date: November 1980.

Wobbling secondary mirror with  $f/35$  in Cassegrain focus, new telescope top-ring which puts radiating material away from light beam. For more details see *Messenger* No. 13, p. 23.

### Cassegrain Echelle Spectrograph (CASPEC) (M. LeLuyer, J. Melnick). Target date: end 1980.

Instrument with resolution of 15,000, 30,000 and 60,000 with an SEC-Vidicon detector. Data-reduction process not yet defined in detail. For more details see *Messenger* No. 17, p. 27.

W. Richter