

astronomical catalogues have been loaded and can be accessed by everyone. There are a STARGAT user guide and a regularly updated documentation of the on-line available data bases.

● For the future, off-prints of the article will be prepared and updated as the need arises.

Please note that the above list only comprises ESO documents for facilities that can be used at or from Garching; there is also an extensive set of user guides for La Silla equipment. The compilation of a completely revised all-ESO manual is in progress. Finally, all Visiting Astronomers have access to ESO's library.

10. How Can a Visit to Garching be Organized?

If you need more information, e.g. one of the documents listed above, or wish to arrange your stay and work in Garching, kindly contact Ms. Elisabeth Hoppe. She will also try to help you with all practical aspects of your stay in Garching. Inquiries concerning observations on and travel to and from La Silla will as

before be handled by Mrs. Christa Euler. They can be reached

- by phone:
 - +40-89-32006-223 (Euler)
 - 473 (Hoppe)
- by ordinary mail:
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 - Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2
 - D-8046 Garching
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 - VISAS@GAESO51 (EARN/Bitnet)
 - PSI%0262458900924::VISAS (X25)
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- by telefax:
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- in person:
 - office No. 222 (Euler)
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For the preparation of your stay in Garching we need to know:

- the name of the person who will come and, if different, the name of the Principal Investigator of the programme;
- the intended dates of your visit;
- the equipment to be used;
- the identification number that has

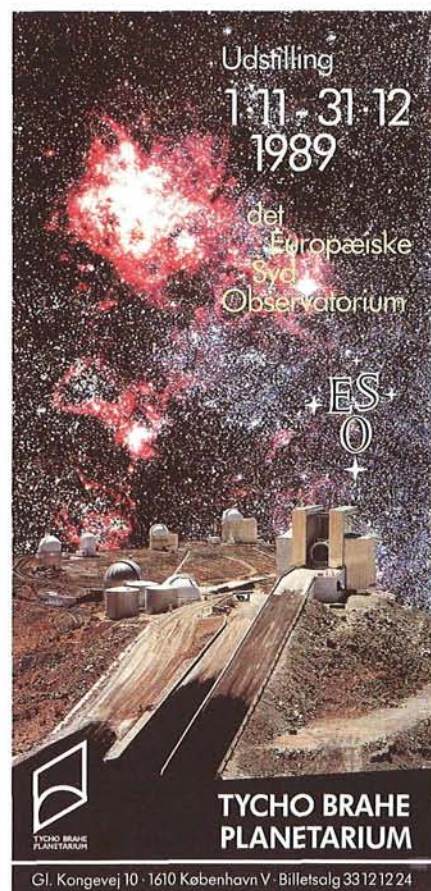
been assigned to the observing programme concerned and the number of the period when the observations were carried out;

- a precise description of the data type (e.g., EFOSC slit spectra, not just EFOSC);
- any special requirements;
- if you already have the operating manual(s) which are necessary for the preparation of your visit (check the document list given above);
- if you need an introduction by an ESO astronomer.

11. Can Things be Improved?

We try to expose you to a minimum of bureaucracy, to be flexible in the application of the rules outlined above, and to be efficient in the scientific-technical support we provide. Nevertheless, there will always be situations where you think we could have done better. Please bring such cases to our attention. Either we succeed in convincing you that there were no practical alternatives or we will have to improve our standards so that we can serve you better next time.

ESO Exhibition Opens in Copenhagen's New Tycho Brahe Planetarium



After more than five years' hard work of preparations and construction, one of the largest and most modern planetaria in Europe has now opened its doors to the public. On October 31, 1989, the new "Tycho Brahe Planetarium" was inaugurated in Copenhagen, in the presence of the Danish head of state, H.M. Queen Margrethe II, and nearly 300 other distinguished guests, comfortably seated in reclining chairs under the tilted 23-metre dome. An ESO Exhibition had been set up in the new planetarium and was officially opened at the same time.

The Queen, who was accompanied by her husband, Prince Henrik of Denmark, and the Danish Minister of Education, Mr. Bertil Haarder, activated the new Zeiss VI TD projector with a well-placed shot from a laser pistol. Not unexpectedly, the first programme was devoted to her famous countryman of the 16th century. The title is "Tycho's Star", referring to the supernova that deeply impressed young Tycho in November 1572 and which led him to the construction of more accurate instruments. The ESO people present at the inauguration were pleased to witness the projection of a magnificent

panorama of La Silla under the southern sky in connection with the presentation of the more recent SN 1987A.

The Queen then visited the exhibition area, where she was shown the ESO photos and models by the Director General, Professor Harry van der Laan, assisted by some Danish members of his staff. The Queen was particularly interested in the Very Large Telescope project and its astronomical possibilities. The Minister of Education was pleased to learn about the associated prospects for Danish science and industry.

The realization of the first large planetarium in Scandinavia is the fulfillment of an old dream by a Copenhagen amateur astronomer, Helge Pedersen and his equally energetic wife, Bodil Pedersen. Now in their eighties, the handsome couple created in 1984 the "Urania-foundation" with an initial donation of 50 million DKK. Helge Pedersen was on a trip to Indonesia to watch the solar eclipse the year before when the idea first came to his mind. The naming reflects his life-long admiration of the famous Danish astronomer and his wish to contribute to the "rehabilitation" of Tycho Brahe in the country which the



Professor Harry van der Laan shows the model of the ESO La Silla observatory to the Queen. In the background Prince Henrik, Mr. Ebbe Fogh-Hansen (Chairman of the Urania Foundation) and at the right, Mr. Bertil Haarder, Minister of Education.

astronomer had to leave when support to his observatory on the island of Hven was withdrawn by King Christian IV.

Plans for a major planetarium in Copenhagen were made already in the 1960's, but had to be shelved when no agreement could be reached about the site. However, the Tycho Brahe Planetarium is now situated on one of the most beautiful spots in the central city area, next to Sankt Jørgens Lake, and only 5 minutes' walk from the famous Tivoli Gardens. The management expects about 400,000 visitors a year, and facilities for multi-language presentations have been implemented to cater for the many tourists who pass through the Danish capital. It is good to note the heavy involvement of amateur and professional astronomers in the daily life at the planetarium; the first school classes have already been received and the evening courses given under the auspices of "Peoples' University", now held at the planetarium, report the highest number of students of all ages ever recorded.

The planetarium also includes an OM-NIMAX projector; the first films to be shown are "Sacred Site" about Comet Halley, and "The Dream is Alive" about the US Space Shuttle. There is also a much-visited restaurant, "Cassiopeia". No doubt that the public will be attracted!

Judging from the enormous interest of the Danish media in this event there is

every hope that astronomy in Denmark will greatly profit from this new facility. Who knows how many young, potential "Tychos" will be deflected in our direc-

tion after a visit to the Tycho Brahe Planetarium? We at ESO are happy to contribute to this noble cause.

R. M. West



ESA Price Winners Visit ESO

On November 16, seventeen young Europeans visited ESO and the Space Telescope European Coordinating Facility at the invitation of the European Space Agency. They were the winners of an ESA Essay competition based on the theme "Astronomy from Space" – chosen because of the impending launches of the Hipparcos satellite and of the Hubble Space Telescope. The visit, which included practical demonstrations of MIDAS and a tour of the Optical and Photo Labs, was very much appreciated by the young people (all of them high-school students) and was crowned by a warm convivial happening with ESO and ECF staff in a typical Munich downtown restaurant.

P. Benvenuti (ST-ECF)