



Fig. 2 a. — A small, extended object (a galaxy?) electrographed with the Spectracon on the ESO 1-metre telescope on La Silla.

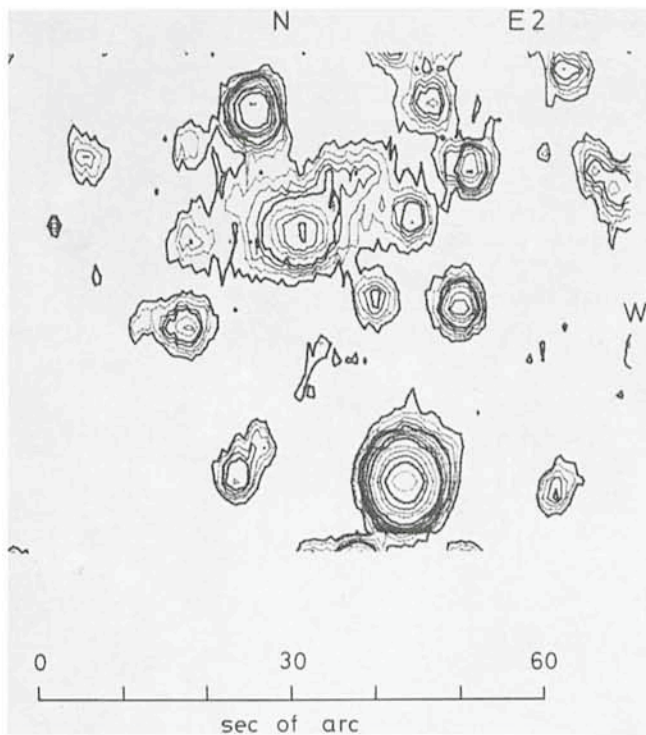


Fig. 2 b. — Contours from the electrograph of Fig. 2 a corresponding to densities between 0.1 and 1.0 unit. Graph obtained by H. Lindgren with the ASTOL measuring system at the Lund Observatory.

turned out to be one of the fifty brightest galaxies. A study of the galaxy in optical as well as in radio wavelengths was made in cooperation with several colleagues (Freeman, Karlsson, Lyngå, Burrell, van Woerden, Goss and Mebold, *Astron. & Astrophys.*, Vol. 55, 445, 1977). The Circinus Galaxy was shown to have a strong radio source in the nucleus and to contain a lot of neutral hydrogen over a large volume. Of other results I shall here only report that the distance is about 4 Mpc, thus placing the Circinus Galaxy just outside the Local Group of galaxies.

### Early-type Stars in the Galactic Window

Some important aspects of having a galactic window at  $l = 311^\circ$  are that the distribution and motion of stars inside the Sun's galactic orbit can be studied and that the interstellar extinction can be determined in these regions.

There are many early-type galactic stars in the Circinus galactic window and with the 1-metre photometric telescope at La Silla I have observed some of them and determined their distances (*Astron. & Astrophys.*, Vol. 54, 71, 1977). The field of interest is shown in Fig. 1, where the Circinus Galaxy is in the centre and the richness of the stellar field is obvious. Some stars marked in Fig. 1 seem to be more than 3 kpc away and to have much less interstellar extinction than normal for such distances. This again shows the lack of dust in that particular direction. The photometry from the 1-metre telescope is also a starting point for a future programme which will study the radial velocities of the distant early-type stars in the field.

### Electrographic Observations on La Silla

One could well ask if there are more galaxies in the Circinus field. I have in fact noticed some faint, extended ob-

jects, and to investigate them closer I have used the new ESO Spectracon electrographic camera. This camera was adapted for use with the ESO 1-metre and 1.5-metre telescopes in cooperation with Dr. Martin Cullum of the ESO-Geneva staff. The great thing with electrography is the linearity of response to light. Fig. 2 a is a reproduction of one of the faint objects and Fig. 2 b shows contours of the plate density corresponding to the luminosity distribution in the object. Compare this information to that of the original Uppsala Schmidt plate; in Fig. 1 the rectangle marks the area of Fig. 2. It is gratifying to have such equipment aiding observations and one can only hope soon to be able to use electrography with the 3.6-metre telescope, giving much larger sensitivity and increased definition for galactic and extragalactic objects.

### ESO Santiago Offices Let to UN

On March 7, a lease contract was signed between ESO and the United Nations for the rental of the vacant ESO offices, the previous astro-workshop and part of the storage area at the Viticura Headquarters in Santiago.

The space rented by the UN had become available after most ESO services had been transferred from Santiago to La Silla. The transfer to the observatory site was part of the reorganization of ESO in Chile, which was initiated in 1975 in order to insure a better functioning of the observatory.

As a result of this reorganization, all technical and most scientific and administrative services are now concentrated on La Silla. Only a few offices and part of the storage area in the basement of the main building in Viticura are still being used by ESO.