

# Claus Madsen Retires

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Claus Madsen began at ESO as a photographer in 1980 and recently retired as senior advisor on international relations. During his career he authored several books, the most notable being a history of ESO from the late 1980s to the 50th anniversary in 2012. A brief appreciation of his career is presented.

Claus Madsen began working at ESO just as the newly built Headquarters was being occupied by staff in 1980. He began as a photographer (which fitted well with his hobby) and worked closely with his fellow countryman Richard West in the ESO Sky Atlas Laboratory. This involved both photography at the telescope, curation and duplication work on the ESO-Schmidt Southern Sky Survey (later combined with the plates from the UK Science Research Council 1.2-metre Schmidt at Siding Spring, Australia as the ESO/AAO Southern Sky Survey) and development of photographic techniques, such as masking to enhance the contrast range of prints (Madsen, 1981) and wide-field sky photography. He was a co-author of the pictorial atlas of the southern skies (Laustsen et al., 1987), whose publication coincided with ESO's 25th anniversary. This book proved very popular and was subsequently translated into Spanish, German, and Danish.

The increasing importance of information dissemination led to the ESO Information and Photographic Service which was set up in 1986 under Richard West's leadership. Claus was a key member and he broadened his skillset. In the time before the web, exhibitions were an important part of the promulgation of ESO's activities and Claus was involved in the organisation of many of these, such as at Expo 92 in Seville, Spain and also several in Chile. Claus also assisted the former Director General (DG), Adriaan Blaauw, in the preparation of his book on the early history of ESO (Blaauw, 1991).



Figure 1. Claus Madsen (left) discussing the history of ESO with the second Director General, Adriaan Blaauw, at his home in Groningen, the Netherlands.

## Outreach and policy

As photography gave way to digital (mostly CCD) imaging as an observational technique, so Claus moved his focus towards outreach and into policy on a wider stage. He was editor, with André Heck, of *Astronomy Communication* in 2003. The ESO DG at that time, Catherine Cesarsky, promoted ESO's entry into the European science arena through ESO membership of EIROforum and Claus was a key member of ESO's EIROforum Team (Madsen, 2004). In 2005 he became Head of the Educational and Public Relations Department. During this time he was closely involved in the planning for the International Year of Astronomy, which was declared by the United Nations (UN) in 2007 and celebrated in 2009, as the 400th anniversary of Galileo's telescope. By 2008 his work in international relations had increased and he was appointed Senior Advisor for International Relations.

Claus continued to be closely involved with EIROforum and from September 2010 to August 2011 he was seconded to the European Fusion Development Agreement Joint European Torus (EFDA/JET) based at Culham, United Kingdom to support EIROforum activities. Then

from September 2011 to August 2012 he was seconded to CERN as Chair of the Coordination Group of EIROforum. The fruits of his learning in these corridors were transmitted in the well-received *Scientific Europe: policies and politics of the European research area*, which explains the maze of research funding (Madsen, 2010). In 2011, at the request of the current DG, Claus worked intensively on the recent history of ESO, to follow on from Adriaan Blaauw's book on the early history (Blaauw, 1991). The resulting tome, *The Jewel on the Mountaintop*, was published for ESO's 50th anniversary in 2012 and showed Claus's flair for writing that is both engaging, historically informed and highly communicative. Most recently he also represented ESO on the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, specifically in the area of alerts for Near Earth Asteroids (NEA's). By reporting accurate ephemerides of asteroids, he could several times save the Earth from a catastrophic collision!

## Retirement

Claus retired from ESO in August 2016 but returned for a farewell party on 22 November 2016 attended by many ESO colleagues and accompanied by his wife and one of his sons. The Director General presented him with a liquid souvenir of his many evenings in the ESO

Guest House in Santiago. Claus said he could recommend retirement for opening up new avenues and he has enthusiastically taken up his old love of photography once more. He emphasised that the history of ESO is bound up with advances in European astronomy and he is a strong advocate that ESO should engage in astronomy across the electromagnetic spectrum — a trend that is beginning to happen with the hosting of

the southern Cherenkov Telescope Array at Paranal.

#### References

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## Retirement of Dietrich Baade

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After 35 years as an astronomer at ESO, Dietrich Baade has retired. He held many different scientific positions in ESO during his career and a brief appreciation is presented, together with a glimpse of his astronomical research interests. A retirement party was held in September 2016.

Dietrich Baade retired from ESO at the end of September 2016 with 35 years service, after a highly varied career within the Organisation. He joined ESO as a Fellow in February 1981, having received his PhD from the Astronomisches Institut, Universität Münster in 1979. After his Fellowship he joined the Space Telescope European Co-ordinating Facility (ST-ECF) when it was set up at ESO Garching in 1984, long before the actual launch of the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) in 1990. There he worked in the area of instrument calibration, particularly for the High Resolution Spectrograph (HRS), and was involved in the development of an exposure time simulator for HST instruments. When HST was subsequently launched he worked with Leon Lucy on restoration



Dietrich Baade

and deconvolution of the aberrated images with increased sampling, and also applied these methods to imaging with the New Technology Telescope (NTT).

On leaving the ST-ECF he worked in the Visiting Astronomers Section providing support for data reduction visitors and use of the remote observing facility, by which visitors could use the NTT, and the Coudé Echelle Spectrometer (CES)

at the Coudé Auxiliary Telescope (CAT), in remote mode. He was a long-time user of MIDAS (Munich Image Data Analysis System) and contributed to the development of the data reduction system and the Data Organiser. He was a member of the working group (headed by Preben Grosbol) that conceived the Very Large Telescope (VLT) Science Data Flow and edited the first version of the VLT Science Operations Plan that has subsequently matured to the standard of today.