

Colour Photos of the Southern Sky

Many people have been impressed by the beauty of the southern sky, as seen with the naked eye, or on the photographic plates taken with the ESO Schmidt telescope.

The question has often been asked whether ESO, like the Hale Observatories in California, could provide colour photos of some of the more spectacular objects that can be photographed from La Silla.

We are happy to report that the first steps in this direction have now been taken. During some nights, colour photo tests were made with the Schmidt telescope and the results are quite satisfactory.

It is much more difficult to make astronomical colour photos than black-and-white photos. This is because the colour balance changes during long exposures in such a way that the pictures become almost completely blue. This can be corrected, and as a result of our tests, it is now possible to take colour pictures on KODAK Ektacolor L film with exposure times up to two hours.

The first successful photo shows the Small Magellanic Cloud and it is a pity that it cannot be reproduced in "The Messenger". Further photos were taken in February, 1975; we hope that a small collection can be established.

Copies of the photos will, of course, be made available to the general public and should give good publicity to ESO.

R. M. W. / H. E. S.

La Silla Workshop Introduces "Turno System"

The so-called "Turno system", under which teams of technicians take turns at staffing the astronomy workshops on La Silla, was introduced on April 1, 1974.

The purpose of the system is to provide the all-important continuity of skilled service for astronomers working on the mountain. Previously, the weekend staff consisted of maintenance and repair men only.

At the moment, four technicians are participating, doing turnos of 18 days, with two days overlapping and seven days for recuperation.

The technicians found their new job hard and long, their other jobs in the Santiago main mechanical workshop fell behind, but now they are catching up, and they are, of course, compensated by corresponding periods of leave.

As for the astronomers, all contacted were taking full advantage of the improved service at weekends and were greatly pleased with the "Turno system".

A Place to Eat

La Silla can hardly be compared with Hamburg, Geneva or even La Serena for the variety of free-time activities which it offers. However, it may be a good place to eat.

The restaurant comes to life at 6.30 a. m. and at seven you can begin with ham and eggs and all the usual trimmings of an international breakfast.

Chile comes on the menu at lunch, which may start with avocado pear, natural, or stuffed with rock lobster tails; or



"You name it, we have it!" says chief cook Erich Schumann (left), about to prepare fresh poodle.

a small hors-d'oeuvre consisting of seafood, cold cuts and salad — or a raw vegetable cocktail.

The dairy products, fresh fruit, vegetables, and fish and meat of many kinds are from La Serena. Santiago provides fancier foods and also vegetables not grown on the coast.

At lunch and dinner soup is served and generally there is a choice. The lentil soup is said to have something special. Try conger eel chowder too: the conger is about the best seafood in Chile. The main course, consisting of meat, fish or fowl, can rise to the heights of canard à l'orange.

An alternative is corn pie (pastel de choclos).

Or you may try porotos (white kidney beans, Chilean style), a spicy dish of pork, noodles, squash — served sometimes with a small steak or a fried egg.

Then there are desserts to make the mouth water: chirimoyas — and cantaloupes stuffed with ice cream, topped with whipped cream and marinated with cherry brandy or Curacao (ahem!).

And the wines — oh dear! On La Silla you may only dream of them.

The La Silla restaurant caters during the week to about 110 people from 10 countries: technicians, administrative staff, hard-working labourers — and even harder-working astronomers, building their strength with bowls of lentil soup.

Staff Association News

On January 20–21, a meeting was held at the TP Division, Geneva, between representatives of the ESO Administration and of the Geneva and Hamburg branches of the Staff Association. Messrs. Woltjer, Bachmann, Carreau and Wilson and Miss E. Kunstein took part. In closed session, the meeting discussed the final proposal concerning the Staff Association Statutes; this will be circulated to the staff before the SA presents it for approval to the Director-General. Later there was a general meeting of the TP Division staff, called by the local branch of the SA.

Prof. Woltjer spoke on general and technical developments, including the auxiliary equipment for the 3.6 m telescope.

The Hamburg branch of the SA met on January 30. Prof. Woltjer replied to the Chairman's words of welcome and briefly reviewed the outlook for the establishment of the astronomical group and the restructuring and integration of the ESO establishments. The meeting then discussed various matters, including char-

ter flights to Chile, flexible working hours, recreational facilities, unemployment insurance and contract conditions.

Chile branch of the SA: The committee members tendered their resignations on January 29.

Hail and Farewell

To mark the retirement of Prof. A. Blaauw as Director-General of ESO and to introduce his successor, Prof. L. Woltjer, a number of parties and receptions were given at the various locations: in Hamburg, Geneva, Santiago and La Serena.

Hamburg. Prof. Blaauw's party for the staff of the Director-General's office took place at the Block-House, Bergedorf, on December 17. The TP Division, Geneva, was represented by Dr. S. Laustsen.

Following a fine buffet dinner and a few words from G. Bachmann, E. Kunstein and the Director-General, a staff band got together and played folk tunes of the member states, cunningly adapted to the occasion. The D. G. then led the way to the dance floor, where waltzes, foxtrots and even livelier rhythms kept us going till the small hours of morning.



We could have danced all night to this combo, consisting of (from left to right): H. Neumann, H. Wiring, R. H. Marciniowski, A. Da Costa Campos, E. Kaske, and P. H. Huijmans.

La Serena. Here, on November 15, local and international staff enjoyed a beach party in sunny weather. At the barbecue, G. Gonzalez, from the Local Staff Association, made a speech and Prof. Blaauw, in reply, recalled the early days of ESO/Chile when water had to be pumped by hand from an open hole, horseback riding was the only means of travel to La Silla and light-signals were used to locate people in cases of emergency.

Profs. Blaauw and Woltjer ended their stay in La Serena with a cocktail party at the Turismo Hotel, which provided the opportunity for a meeting with the local authorities and other personalities of the area.

To All Members of the ESO Staff

Now that my term as Director-General of this Organization has come to an end, I wish to express my deep



At the Bergedorf party, Prof. and Mrs. Blaauw.

gratitude for the expressions of goodwill which my wife and I have received from so many of you at the farewell parties and receptions and on some other recent occasions. Ranging from the first ones, the "asado" and reception at La Serena, via those at Santiago, at the TP Division and the Council dinner, to the evening with the staff at Bergedorf, this has been an unforgettable experience. On these occasions many moments in the long history of my association with ESO have again come to my mind and it was heart-warming to enjoy these in the presence of so many who have been my highly-valued collaborators throughout these years. A memory of these gestures and the pleasure we derive from the beautiful presents we received will undoubtedly remain a source of joy for us in the years to come.

Adriaan Blaauw

New in ESO

DG's office

Johan van Tol succeeded Jürgen Meuser as Head of the Purchasing/Transport Service at Hamburg on January 1. Mr. van Tol, who comes from near Eindhoven in the southern Netherlands, studied economics at Rotterdam and Tilburg and was later employed by DAF as purchasing manager.

He is married and has three children. Sport is one of his freetime interests — football, of course, since he is Dutch, and a spot of tennis now and then.

TP Division

Maurice Le Luyer, is from Brittany, as the name suggests. He is the new designer in the Optics Group and he joined the TP Division on October 1. Born in 1941, he studied — though not immediately — at the Ecole Supérieure d'Optique, Paris University, and became licencié ès sciences in 1964. His last post was that of designer at CERCO (Centre de Recherches et de Calculs Optiques) located at Courbevoie, near Paris. Now he is working on the ACCOS 5 Programme, connected with the CERN computer.

Mr. Le Luyer is married and has a child. Favourite pastimes: photography and yachting.

Daniel Enard was born at Panjas, France, in 1939. He joined the Optics Group as engineer on February 1. A graduate of Paris University, he took a doctorate in optical engineering in 1965. His latest job was with the MATRA plant at Rueil, near Paris, which makes military equipment. Mr. Enard is married and has two daughters.