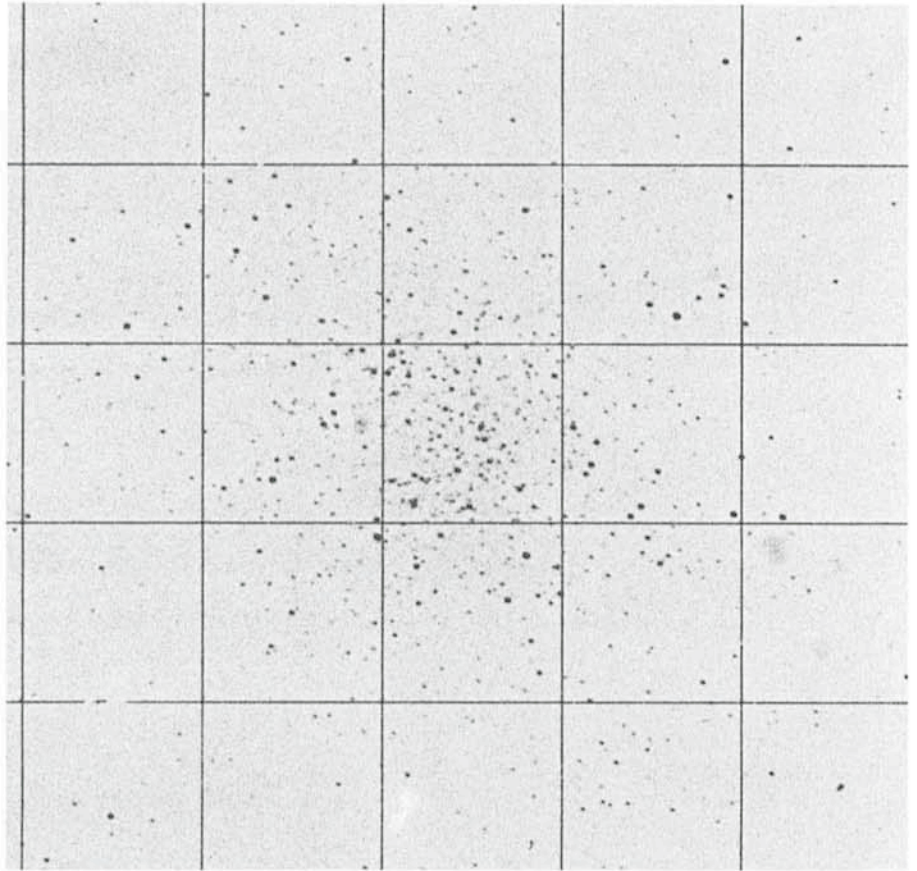


## Messier 22: 73 Years Ago

This picture shows the globular cluster Messier 22 = NGC 6656, photographed (Plate no. 390; exposure 90 min) on August 26, 1913 with the f/17 40 cm astrograph at the Zo-Se station of the Shanghai observatory (P.R. China). The station is situated just south of Shanghai at a geographic latitude of +31°. Since this globular cluster lies in the southern Milky Way at R.A. = 18<sup>h</sup> 33<sup>m</sup>; Decl. = -23° 58', the telescope was pointed close to the southern horizon. Messier 22 is the third nearest globular cluster at a distance of about 3 kpc.

This plate was brought to ESO-Garching by a visiting astronomer from Shanghai, Dr. Yao Bao-an, who is currently staying at ESO to work with ESO astronomers on it and other plates. Among other subjects, Dr. Bao is investigating the proper motions of stars in this cluster by comparing their positions on "old" plates with those on plates taken in 1986. For this, they scan the plates with the ESO PDS microphotometer and measure the displacements of the stellar images by use of the IHAP and MIDAS image processing software.

Plate no. 390 is a good example of how earlier observations can be extremely useful in modern astronomical research. Stars in the field which are not members of Messier 22 can be recognized as such by their different proper motions and a "cleaner" sample of cluster stars can be established. This in turn will lead to a better determination of the



distance and also of the motion of the cluster in our Galaxy. The membership of some unusual stars is also an important question to be solved. The success of such measurements is entirely dependent on the existence of "old" and "new" plates from the same telescope. The Shanghai astrograph took the first plate in 1902 and was used for a long time by French astronomers. The round-

ness of the images, despite the position of the telescope and the long exposure, testifies to the skill of the observer, whose name unfortunately is not indicated on the plate.

In some years, the Shanghai astrograph will celebrate its hundredth anniversary. We wish this venerable instrument and the astronomers who now use it all the best for the future.

## Who Has Photographs from Early ESO Days?

Next year, ESO will celebrate its 25th anniversary. On October 5, 1962, a convention was signed in Paris by the representatives of the original five member countries, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, the Netherlands and Sweden. Denmark joined in 1967, and Italy and Switzerland in 1981, bringing the number of ESO member states to the current eight.

In connection with the various activities which are being planned for 1987, we are now looking for "old" ESO pictures. Main themes of interest are: early ESO meetings, also before the formal founding of the organization; La Silla before and during early construction; early visitors (before 1970) to La Silla.

There may of course also be other pictures of special interest to ESO.

In case you possess such pictures, we would be thankful for being informed about their approximate number and

content. You are also very welcome to send them (by registered mail!) to the ESO Information and Photographic Service. We shall copy them and will return the originals to you as soon as possible.

## New Minor Planet: (3496) ARIESO

The Minor planet (1977 RC) was discovered by H.-E. Schuster on a plate taken with the ESO Schmidt telescope on September 5, 1986. It has now been observed during three oppositions and was given the number (3496) by the IAU Minor Planet Bureau. The orbit is peculiar, of the so-called Pallas-type. It was found during the 1977 Pilot Survey for

High-Inclination Minor Planets which was a joint project of Astronomisches Rechen-Institut (ARI) in Heidelberg, FRG, and ESO. It has been given the name ARIESO (combining the acronyms of the two institutions), after a proposal by the involved astronomers, L.D. Schmadel and J. Schubart (ARI), and H.-E. Schuster and R.M. West (ESO).