

SEST Users Meeting

The third SEST Users Meeting will be held in Onsala, Sweden, on 18–19 March 1993. Those wishing to attend should write to:

SEST Users Meeting
Onsala Space Observatory
S-43900 Onsala
Sweden

face major problems in the course of changing to automated library management. Of course, we are sticking to "positive thinking" and are keeping our fingers crossed that the going won't get extremely tough. However, it will be worthwhile to concentrate forces on this project in order to make life easier and much more efficient for both librarians and library users.



On October 28, a three-child delegation walked into the Director General's office to talk about the Children's Christmas Party. Of the concessions they pressed for, the request to invite Saint Nicolas to participate in person was foremost and the DG was left little choice but to grant this.

Judging by the picture, showing from left to right Cornée Ravensbergen, Harry van der Laan, Nadja Dekker and Adriaan van Dijsseldonk, all were happy with the agreement reached!

Photo: H.-H. Heyer

"Exploring the Universe" from the Desert Gate

Antofagasta describes itself as "Gate to the Desert, Window on the Sea". For 17 days a window on the Universe was opened for the population as ESO in collaboration with the University of Antofagasta opened its travelling exhibition at the foyer of the Municipal Theatre right in the centre of the town.

Days before the opening, a group of enthusiastic students from the University of Antofagasta went through an astronomy crash-course including a visit to La Silla, ending with an "exam" conducted by the Head of the La Silla Astronomy group, Jorge Melnick. The students then took over the job as exhibition guides.

The ESO exhibition occupied two floors, one devoted to astronomy and one to ESO and its activities, including a presentation of the VLT and Paranal. It is the first time that the ambitious VLT plans were presented to the local population, and the ESO exhibition was met by a wide-spread interest. This was evident already at a well-attended press conference, which was held in the morning of October 27, the day of the inauguration. Jorge Melnick, Patrice Bouchet and ESO Administrator Armelle Cabillic answered a whole range of questions.

At the inauguration, a large number of invited guests, including the Intendente

for the 2nd region, Don Blas Espinoza, and the Mayor of Antofagasta, Pedro Araya Ortiz, listened to speeches by Don Jorge Peralta Hidalgo, Rector of the University, and Jorge Melnick, after which they enjoyed a guided tour through the exhibition, with the small corps of student-guides demonstrating their skills in a very convincing way.

After being dismantled in Antofagasta, the ESO travelling exhibition will take a small break for the (southern) summer. However, ESO has received a number of invitations for new exhibitions, among others from the University of Concepción.

C. MADSEN, ESO



Figure 1: From the Antofagasta press conference: Jorge Melnick presents the VLT project to the press.



Figure 2: A student explains the wonders of the Milky Way to the invited guests at the inauguration.