

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gerhard Bachmann (1931–1996)



Gerhard Bachmann, who for many years as Head of Administration played an essential role in the development of ESO, died on 9 December 1996. Through his wisdom, dedication, integrity and persistence many problems were solved, ESO's relations with the member countries were excellent and ESO's internal organisation functioned smoothly. He always had a willing ear for complaints from the staff and, if justified, would see to it that the necessary corrective action was taken.

Born in Berlin on 24 May 1931, he held various positions in the German civil service, before joining the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency in France and Luxembourg (1963–1970). In 1970 he joined the ESO Administration which he headed since 1972. He retired in May 1996. During this time, ESO has developed into a major European research organisation. Mr. Bachmann's leadership has done much to inspire confidence among member state governments that ESO could be entrusted with substantially increased funds, that it had the management ability to deal with large projects, and that it could conduct diplomatic negotiations at the highest level. He successfully established the Personnel Statutes for International and Local Staff, the financial and contractual procedures of ESO, the adherence of ESO to many of the procedures of the Co-ordinated Organisations, even though the fickleness of the European governments led to deviations from these soon thereafter. All ESO's pensioners can be grateful to him for the way he integrated ESO into the CERN pension fund. He played an essential role in the delicate negotiations about the increase of the membership of ESO, which led to Italy and Switzerland joining the Organisation. His diplomatic abilities in smoothing out

problems with the member states avoided many difficulties. More than anywhere this diplomacy was required in Chile, where he managed to maintain appropriate relations with governments ranging over the whole political spectrum. Unfortunately, he could not be present anymore at the signing of the Acuerdo that put an end to a period of some difficulties between Chile and ESO.

Mr. Bachmann had a strong personality and at the same time a great loyalty to ESO. He strongly defended his point of view, but it was always possible to have a rational discussion and to come to a positive conclusion. Once arrived at, there was no doubt that it would be fully respected, even in the rare cases where his personal preference might have been slightly different.

Gerhard Bachmann always had time for what was needed, whatever the hour of the day or the day of the week. In the course of time we became very good friends, and I remember with particular pleasure the many travels we made together, most of all the first discovery trip to Paranal which turned out to have such far-reaching consequences. Between his various activities, Mr. Bachmann could perfectly relax, and I have fond memories of the many evenings we spent at the Casa Schuster at La Silla.

Mr. Bachmann was looking forward to spending more time at his home near Bordeaux that he had spent much effort to develop. Unfortunately, fate was different. His many friends in Europe and in Chile will miss him. All feel that he had merited better. Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Bachmann and his two daughters.

L. Woltjer

(7215) Gerhard = 1977 FS

Asteroid discovered 1977 March 16 by H.-E. Schuster at the European Southern Observatory.

Named in memory of Gerhard Bachmann (1931–1996), who came to the European Southern Observatory in 1970 and was head of administration at the organisation from 1972 to 1996. Throughout this time he greatly contributed to ESO's success. His unusual diplomatic abilities and thorough knowledge of the interaction of science and politics ensured the smooth running of the observatory and efficient interaction with the member countries and the European Union. The naming marks his retirement from ESO and subsequent untimely death. Name proposed by the discoverer. Citation prepared by R.M. West.

ESO Studentship Programme

The European Southern Observatory research student programme aims at providing the opportunities and the facilities to enhance the post-graduate programmes of the member-state universities by bringing young scientists in close contact with the instruments, activities, and people at one of the world's foremost observatories.

Students in the programme work on an advanced research degree under the formal tutelage of their home university and department, but come to either Garching or Vitacura/La Silla to do their studies under the supervision of an ESO Staff Astronomer. Candidates and their supervisors should agree on a research project together with the potential ESO local supervisor.

ESO has positions available for 12 to 14 research students. Students normally stay at ESO up to two years, so that each year a total of 6–7 new studentships are available either at the ESO Headquarters in Garching or in Chile at the Vitacura Quarters and the La Silla Observatory. These positions are open to students enrolled in a Ph.D. programme in the ESO member states and exceptionally at a university outside the ESO member states.

The closing date for applications is June 15, 1997.

For further information on the programme, the scientific interests of the ESO astronomers, and application forms please contact:

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or look up: <http://www.eso.org/adm/personnel/students>