



## ESO European Headquarters in Munich

The Council, at its meeting of December 2, 1975, took some decisions of far-reaching importance for the future of ESO.

The Council accepted the very generous offer of the Federal Republic of Germany of a site of 1.2 hectares and a building of a total floor space of 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> at Garching, near Munich, to house the European headquarters of the Organization. At this headquarters, all departments of ESO will be united, which now are scattered over Hamburg and Geneva.

To widen the contacts between institutes in the member countries and to promote their cooperation among each other and with ESO on the scientific and instrumental sectors and to secure the optimum functioning of the observatory on La Silla in Chile for the benefit of the astronomical community in the member countries, the Council authorized the Director-General to create a scientific-technical centre. This centre will also take steps towards the coordinated planning of large-scale instrumental developments and observing programmes with other large astronomical projects, in particular in the member states. Until completion of the new building at Garching, expected at the end of 1978, the centre will be located at CERN, Geneva, the host Organization of ESO's 3.6 m Telescope Project Division during the past five years.

Under application of the strictest economy, the Director-General was confident to realize all this within the contribution ceilings fixed by the Council at DM 32.5 million for the year 1976 and estimated at DM 32.5 million and 30 million for the years 1977 and 1978 respectively. The total international staff complement will be 125 in 1976, 122 in 1977, 120 in 1978, with 12 positions blocked in each year.

The chairmen of the various committees were all reappointed, as a result of which the following persons hold office:

Professor B. Strömberg, President of Council; Professor J.-F. Denisse, Vice-President of Council; Mr. M. Deloz, Chairman of the Finance Committee; Professor L. Biermann, Chairman of the Scientific Policy Committee; Professor G. Courtès, Chairman of the Instrumen-

tation Committee, and Dr. G. Wlérick, Chairman of the Observing Programmes Committee.

## ASTRONOMY AT ESO

### Supernovae in the Magellanic Clouds

The study of the Small and the Large Magellanic Clouds is a great privilege of the astronomers in the southern hemisphere. Their importance is mainly due to the small distance from us (50 and 63 kpc), which allows the astronomer to observe in them fine details and faint objects. In addition, the Clouds appear to be in an evo-

lutionary stage quite different from that of our own galaxy, as witnessed for instance by the relatively high percentage of mass in gaseous form. In order to gain more understanding of the evolution of stars and galaxies, it is therefore very important to investigate in the Magellanic Clouds questions such as the metal content or the detailed properties of regions of star formation and death. Astronomers have been going after these questions for years and one can imagine that the forthcoming large ESO telescope will help elucidating many of the present problems.

Recently at ESO, astronomers J. Danziger and M. Dennefeld started to take another look at some supernova remnants in the Large Cloud. One of the objects investigated is N 132 D which had been studied already by Westerlund and Mathewson about ten years ago. The study of Danziger and Dennefeld leaves no doubt that N 132 D is the remnant of a stellar explosion somewhat similar to the galactic object Cas A. In addition, the same study suggests that this object may possibly be the source of an intense flux of X-rays recently reported by a group of American scientists. Should this be the case, N 132 D would be the most powerful X-ray emitter of all known supernova remnants. This circumstance could be explained by the fact that the explosion took place in an environment denser than the interstellar space of our own galaxy, thus changing the evolutionary history of the remnant. It is also interesting that almost all supernova remnants in the Magellanic Clouds seem to be associated with regions of ionized hydrogen (H II regions).

Theoretical studies on this and related problems are now under way in the ESO Scientific Group in Geneva. These studies and the parallel observational work on supernova remnants in the Magellanic Clouds are not only of interest in themselves but may lead to more insight on the effects and peculiarities of stellar explosions in dense media such as those possibly prevailing in the nuclei of galaxies.



One of the supernova remnants in the Large Magellanic Cloud, photographed in blue light with the ESO 1 m Schmidt telescope.

## PROFILE OF A VISITOR'S PROGRAMME: Spectra of Bright Southern Stars

When Danish astronomer Johannes Andersen and his Swedish-born wife, Birgitta Nordström, also astronomer, appear on La Silla, the night assistants at the ESO 1.5 m spectroscopic telescope know that they are in for some hard nights' work. For although their observing programme may not seem glamorous when compared to present-day X-ray sources and black holes, it is certainly a very important and fundamental one, demanding a lot of first-class astronomical observations.

The radial velocities of many bright southern stars have never been measured and no high-resolution spectra have ever been taken of them, due to the well-known lack of suitable telescopes in the southern hemisphere. Now Andersen and Nordström, of Copenhagen Observatory, are filling this gap. They have selected 450 bright stars of spectral types B0-F4, with the aim of taking three spectra of each, in order to detect possible variability and to obtain radial velocities, accurate to a couple of kilometres per second. During three major observing sessions, they have obtained more than 1,600 spectra of these stars as well as of 250 selected B8-A0 stars, which P. Grosbøl, also of Copenhagen Observatory, uses for calculations of the spiral structure of our galaxy. During some nights, more than 70 spectra, all at 20 Å/mm, were taken. No wonder that everyone was busy!

In the course of this work, many new double-lined spectroscopic binaries have been detected, along with a substantial number of Be, shell and other peculiar stars. Another Danish astronomer, Erik Olsen, has taken a photometric look at 17 of the spectroscopic binaries with the Danish 50 cm telescope on La Silla and he found that at least four of them also show eclipses.

This programme is just one of some fifty which were carried out in 1975 with the ESO telescopes on La Silla.

## STAFF ASSOCIATION NEWS

### New Staff Representatives Elected

Elections took place in Chile on December 9, 1975, in Hamburg on December 19, 1975 and in Geneva on January 27, 1976. The following representatives were elected:

<b>ESO-CHILE:</b>	F. Simon (Chairman) W. Eckert (Deputy) S. Baton (Substitute)
<b>ESO-HAMBURG:</b>	R. Marcinowski (Chairman) J. van Tol (Deputy) Barbara Hansen (Substitute)
<b>ESO-GENEVA:</b>	D. Enard (Chairman) P. Scharnweber (Deputy) Suzanne Nègre (Substitute)

### Local Staff Organization, La Silla

The "Directorio" of AUPL has the following members:

Reinaldo Kennett (Chairman)
Ramón Huidobro (Vice-Chairman)
Rolando Veliz (Secretary)
Luis Aguila (Treasurer)
María Acosta
Germón Gonzalez
José y Alfredo Rozas

## ESO 3.6 m Telescope on its Way to La Silla!

November 14, 1975 was an important date for the large ESO telescope. On that day, a meeting with about ten participants took place in Geneva. Around the table were the President of the Council, the Chairman of the Instrumentation Committee, the Director-General of ESO and members of the TP Division who had the privilege to report on the final results of the mechanical and controls tests carried out in the assembly hall of Creusot-Loire at St.-Chamond.

As could be expected with an instrument of the size and the enormous complexity of the ESO telescope, a number of problems were encountered during these tests. Most of them were not too difficult to solve, but others called for imagination and hard work. The trickiest was the high friction of the polar axis. It took us a long time to fully understand the reason for the trouble, which turned out to be a deflection of the structure of the horseshoe, resulting in a small deformation of the flat surface which takes up the axial load of the telescope. The cure was not a simple one, but by grinding under load we succeeded in reaching an entirely satisfactory result.

The astronomers invited to the meeting could, therefore, support the proposal of the TP Division to consider the test period as completed and consequently to disassemble the instrument and have it shipped to Chile.

One week later, the disassembly started and a team from the packing firm Tailleur started to pack. What a

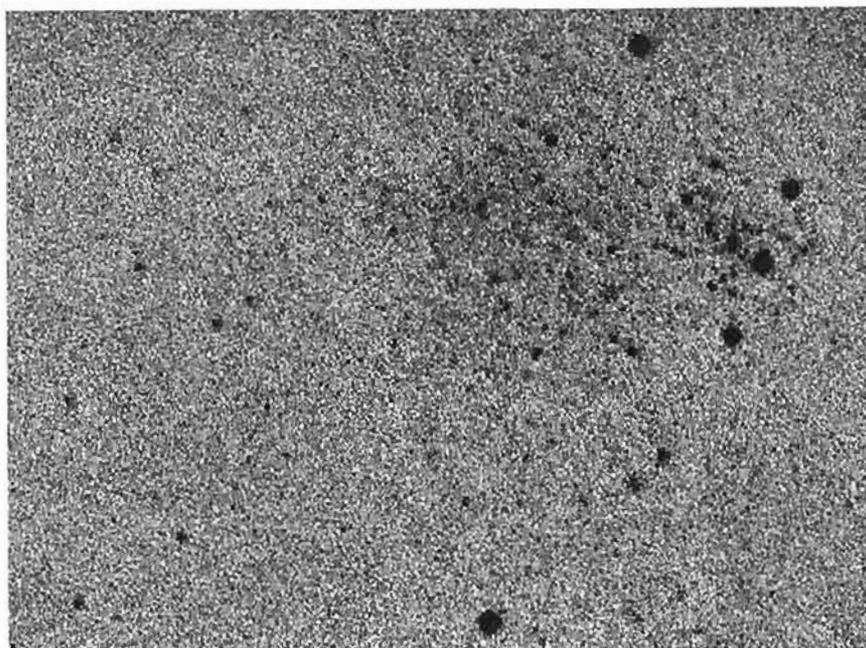
packing job! More than 150 wooden boxes had to be made. The total shipping weight of the telescope in its boxes came to 441,650 kg!

At the day of writing (February 9, 1976) these boxes were standing in the harbour Port-St-Louis-du-Rhône, close to Marseille. Creusot-Loire has chosen a Spanish ship for the transport, and it is supposed that loading will take place on February 13. Once the telescope on board, the ship is scheduled to go non-stop to Coquimbo. The passage can be done in three weeks, which is two to three weeks shorter than foreseen in our planning.

On La Silla, the contractors (Interbeton and Krupp) are busy terminating the building, the dome and the road to the 3.6 m telescope site. The somewhat earlier arrival of the telescope has put extra pressure on them to terminate their work. At present, it seems unavoidable to delay the begin of the telescope assembly by about a week in order to terminate road construction and certain works on the dome. However, telescope erection should in any case start in March. We expect to be able to turn the instrument axes in July. The big optical elements are now on La Silla, ready to be installed.

Our present plan is to make the first astronomical observation in October-November this year.

Further progress of the large ESO telescope will be reported in the next issue of the "Messenger".



### A Very Distant Stellar Cluster

Looking through a night's plates from the ESO Schmidt telescope on La Silla, ESO astronomer H.-E. Schuster recently noticed a weak and fuzzy spot in the centre of a plate for the ESO (B) Atlas of the Southern Sky. By closer inspection, it became evident that the object was of extraordinary interest, showing resolution into individual stars. A yellow-sensitive plate confirmed that the brightest stars of the object are rather red; in fact, they

could very well be the most luminous giant stars in a globular cluster. From a preliminary analysis, H.-E. Schuster and R. M. West believe that this is indeed the case and they estimate the distance to the cluster at 100 kpc (about 300,000 light-years). Further observations are needed for verification and there is no doubt that the cluster will be high on the observing list when the 3.6 m telescope goes into action.

## Astronomy, Hydrodynamics and Stamps

What have these to do with each other? Well, according to Mr. Dumoulin of the ESO Sky Atlas Laboratory in Geneva, very much indeed. In order to ensure a very uniform background density on the glass copies of ESO Schmidt plates, he uses a special machine, a so-called tray-rocker, to develop these plates. As the name implies, it is really a tray that rocks and rotates so that the developer floats across the plate, from one side to another. In the hope of improving the process, advice was sought from the Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne where Messrs. Bruchat, Boillat and Giraud undertook a detailed study of the movements of the developer as a function of tray geometry, rocking and rotating rate, etc.

The results were encouraging and later a visit was paid to the ESO Sky Atlas Laboratory by two representatives of a well-known Swiss firm that prints official stamps for eight countries. One step in the production is the extremely critical development of a 30 x 50 cm glass plate which serves as a master copy for the printing of large stamp sheets. After an impressive demon-



Mr. B. Dumoulin with the tray-rocker in the ESO Sky Atlas Laboratory in Geneva.

stration of the ESO technique, it appears that European astronomy may help improving the quality of future European stamps. So, who said that astronomy has no practical implications on society?

## ESO Invents New Method to Stabilize a Large Telescope

The principle of the ESO computerized telescope control system, developed by the Controls Group, has been extensively tested on La Silla on the photometric and Schmidt telescopes respectively. A summary description of this system is given in Technical Report number 6 of May 1975.

The main effort during the test period at the factory was therefore devoted to the development of the computer-controlled servodrives of the two telescope axes. The mechanical structure, which supports the mirrors of the 3.6 m telescope, is in terms of servo-engineering a complex combination of interacting masses and springs, giving rise to instabilities.

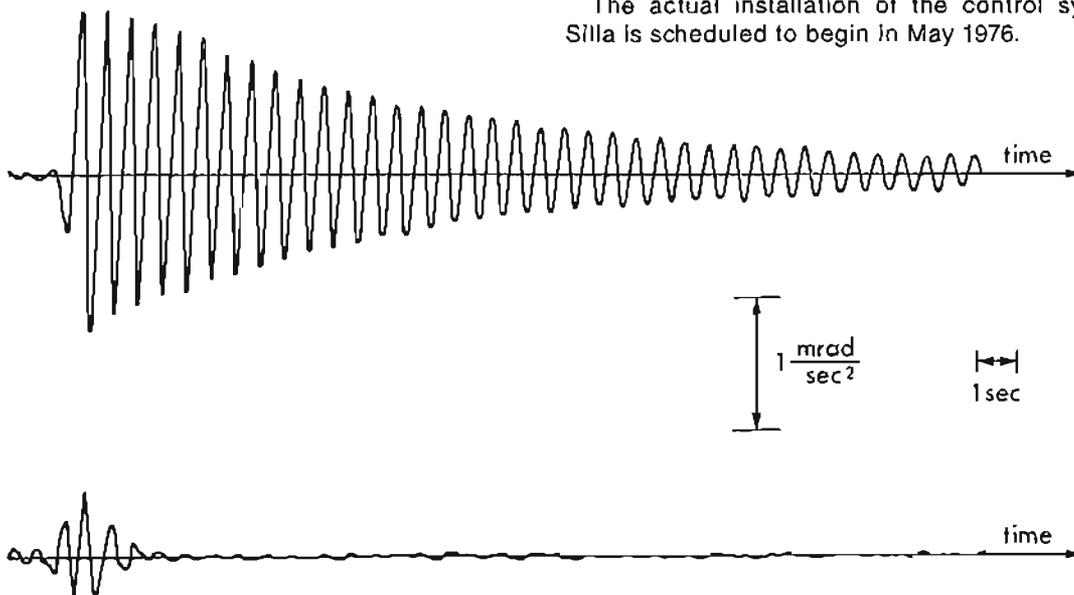
The very high requirements set by the astronomers are not easily satisfied. The accuracy with which the instrument needs to be set at the object of interest, the smoothness and precision of the motion as well as the stability of the telescope and its resistance to external

influences, such as windforces, are only some of the problems that must be solved. At the end of the testing period, a satisfactory solution for these problems was found and implemented, and a novel way to stabilize the telescope, using accelerometers, was developed. This work is documented by Technical Report number 7 (in print).

The efficiency of the damping principle is apparent from the figure. This shows the acceleration of the horseshoe after a disturbing force of 20 kp has been suddenly imposed at the top of the telescope tube. The upper curve is a recording without acceleration feedback and the lower curve with acceleration feedback.

This solution, in which the drive motors are also used to dampen the oscillations of the telescope caused by external forces, has been possible because of the use of spurgears. These gears, as opposed to the traditional wormgear, working in both directions and having low friction, give a "direct access" to the structure.

The actual installation of the control system on La Silla is scheduled to begin in May 1976.



## ESO Schmidt Telescope Improved

Improvements made on the Schmidt telescope during 1974 and 1975 have resulted in an encouraging rise in plate production.

The quality of the ESO Schmidt plates has come up to an acceptable level and now compares favourably with plates from other Schmidt telescopes around the world.

With the assistance of J. R. van der Ven, mechanical engineer, and J. van der Lans, electrical engineer, of the TP Division, a new drive system and a new electronic control system for the right ascension and declination motions were designed, constructed and installed. Furthermore, problems concerning telescope orientation, optical collimation and mirror handling were solved.

A new guiding system was developed and successfully tested by A. B. Muller, senior astronomer. This system enables guiding on stars in the focal plane of the Schmidt camera near the photographic plate. J. van der Lans developed a television system for this guider, which permits guiding on stars as faint as 14<sup>m</sup>.

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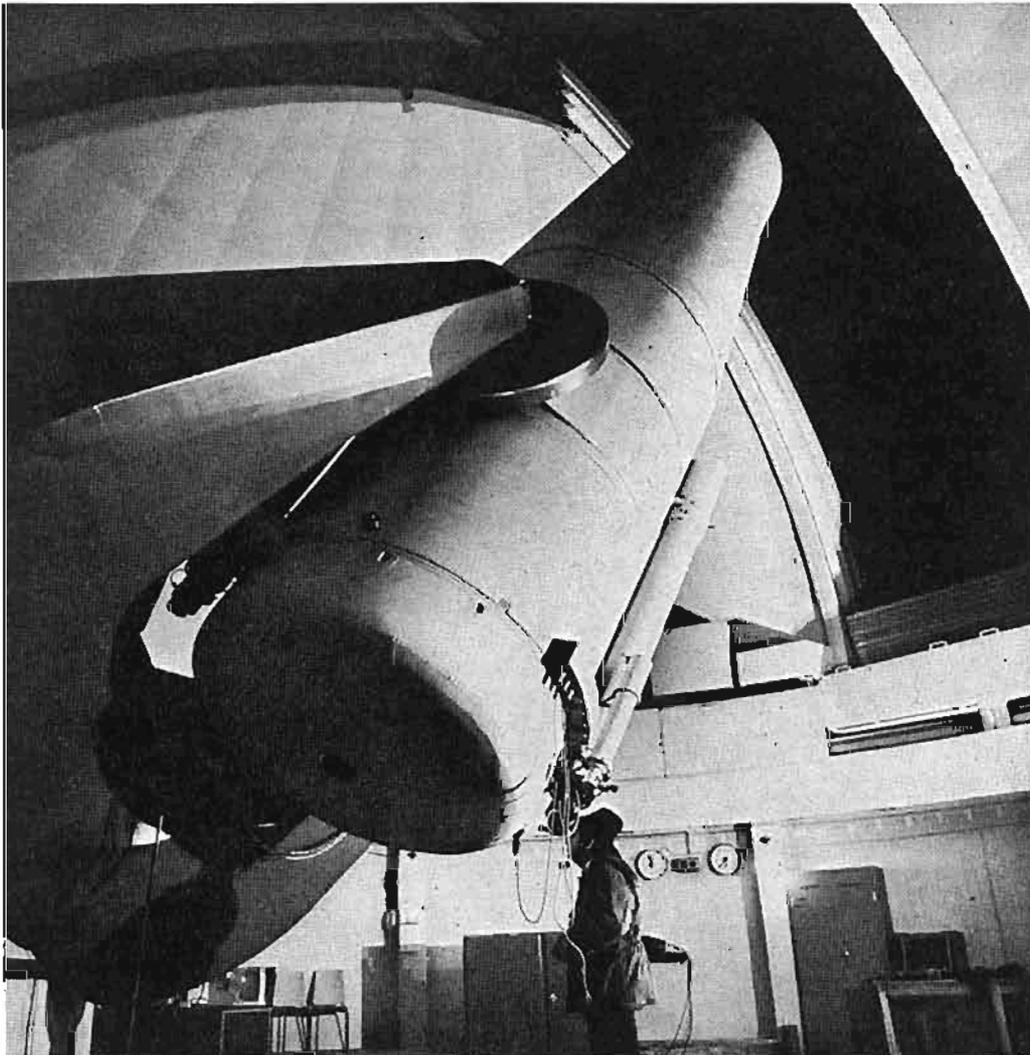
## Tentative Meeting Schedule

The following dates and locations have been reserved for meetings of the ESO Council and Committees:

March 30	Finance Committee, Hamburg
May 10/11	Observing Programmes Committee, Hamburg
May 12	Instrumentation Committee, Hamburg
May 13	Finance Committee, Hamburg
May 14	Committee of Council, Hamburg
June 1	Scientific Policy Committee, Hamburg
June 2/3	Council, Hamburg
October 26	Instrumentation Committee, Munich
October 27/28	Finance Committee, Munich
October 29	Committee of Council, Munich

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Further improvements, foreseen for 1976 and 1977, concern the plate-holder and filter systems. A new corrector-plate now being studied at Zeiss Jena will permit high-quality ultra-violet exposures. By the end of 1977, the Schmidt telescope should be fully modernized.



The ESO Schmidt telescope is one of the largest of its kind in the world. Since it was put into operation on La Silla in late 1972, more than 1,300 plates have been taken with this instrument. Most of the plates are 1-hour exposures for the ESO surveys of the southern sky. The staff consists of three, ESO astronomer Hans-Emil Schuster and night assistants Guldo and Oscar Pizarro. An improvement programme is being carried out under the supervision of André Muller, ESO senior astronomer.

## Visiting Astronomers

April-September 1976

Observing time has now been allocated for period 17 (April 1 to October 1, 1976). As usual, the demand for telescope time was much greater than the time actually available.

Here are the "lucky" astronomers, by telescope and in chronological order. The complete list, with dates, equipment and programme titles, is available from ESO/Hamburg.

### 1.52 m SPECTROGRAPHIC TELESCOPE

- April: Breysacher, de Groot, Ahlin, Grosbøl-Andersen-Nordström, Dubois, A. Elvius.  
May: Appenzeller, de Loore-Gieren, de Groot, Terzan, Havlen, Andriessse.  
June: Chu Kit, Bergvall-Westerlund, Havlen, Andriillat-Fehrenbach-Swings-Dossin, Ahlin.  
July: Andriillat-Fehrenbach-Swings-Dossin, Breysacher-Chu Kit, Dennefeld, Havlen, Breysacher-Müller-Schuster-West, Dennefeld.  
August: de Groot, Wolf, Lauterborn, Breysacher-Müller-Schuster-West, van Bueren-Doazan.  
Sept.: Geyer, Ahlin, Materne.

### 1 m PHOTOMETRIC TELESCOPE

- April: Vogt, Wramdemark, Wamsteker, v. d. Heuvel, A. Elvius.  
May: Pakull, Wamsteker, Lindblad, Havlen, Kohoutek, Crane, Vogt.  
June: Crane, Wamsteker, Andriessse, Havlen, Loibl, Westerlund.  
July: Wamsteker, Sherwood-Schultz, Querci.  
August: Wamsteker, Thé, Houziaux-Manfroid.  
Sept.: Materne-Schröder, Materne, Adam.

### 50 cm ESO TELESCOPE

- April: Mauder, Breysacher-Vogt, Pakull, de Groot, v. d. Heuvel.  
May: de Groot, v. d. Heuvel, Pakull, Lindblad, Vogt, Kohoutek.  
June: de Groot, Renson, Vogt.  
July: Johansson, Schober, de Groot, Vogt.  
August: Walter-Lauterborn, Waller, Walter-Lauterborn, Debehogne.  
Sept.: Vogt, Seggewiss  
(and a test programme for Stenholm, April-June).

### OBJECTIVE PRISM ASTROGRAPH (G.P.O.)

- April: Blaauw-West, Danks, Blaauw-West.  
May: Blaauw-West.  
June: Blaauw-West.  
July: Gieseking.  
August: Debehogne, Blaauw-West.

### 60 cm BOCHUM TELESCOPE

- July: Hardorp, Querci, Schober.  
August: de Groot, Querci, de Groot, Oblak, Feinstein, Oblak, de Groot.

### 50 cm DANISH TELESCOPE

- April: Mauder, de Groot, Mauder, de Groot, Mauder.  
May: Lindblad, de Groot.  
July: Loibl, de Groot, Loibl, de Groot, Loibl, Deubner.

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## ESO/Hamburg Moves to New Offices

On November 1, 1975 the Office of the Director-General in Hamburg-Bergedorf moved from Bergedorfer Straße to nearby Alte Holstenstraße. The new address is:

EUROPEAN SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY  
Office of the Director-General  
Alte Holstenstraße 1  
D-205 HAMBURG 80



30 Doradus Nebula in LMC

The 30 Doradus (NGC 2070 or 30 Dor) nebula is the brightest H II (ionized hydrogen) region in the sky. It is located in the Large Magellanic Cloud, east of the central bar. The photo shows the spidery structure of 30 Doradus (sometimes called the "Great Nebula") and many of the stellar clusters in the Large Magellanic Cloud.

This photo is one of a series taken with the ESO 1 m Schmidt telescope and made available in the form of slides (see page 8).

## Some Words About Garching/Munich

Now that it has been decided that ESO will establish its European headquarters in Garching, near Munich, in 1978, many ESO employees have become interested in their future surroundings. "How does the ESO site look like?", "Where should one live in Munich?", etc. are common questions among ESO people in Hamburg and Geneva.

The ESO site of about 1.2 hectares is situated near the community of Garching, about 12 km from the north-eastern outskirts of Munich. It is part of an area comprising a total of about 450 hectares which have been reserved for the construction of research centres. At Garching there are at present a number of research facilities of the Max Planck Society, of the Technical University, of Munich's Ludwig Maximilians University and of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences. The construction of further research institutes, in particular those of the Technical University (Institutes of Chemistry and Physical Chemistry) and of the Max Planck Society (Institute of Astrophysics), is envisaged for the next few years.

ESO's largest neighbour is the Max Planck Institute of Plasma Physics, which carries out basic research aimed at mastering the process of nuclear fusion, the same process that makes the sun shine. With a total number of 1,100 employees (among them about 230 scientists), it is the largest institute of the Max Planck Society. ESO will have the possibility to use various facilities of the institute, for instance the canteen, the large IBM computer system, medical service and the library.

The Institute of Extraterrestrial Physics at the Max Planck Institute of Physics and Astrophysics is concerned with the exploration of the ionosphere and the magnetosphere of the earth and of interplanetary space, as well as the study of distant cosmic objects. It participates in launchings of German, U.S. and European

satellites and sounding rockets and employs about 140 staff members, including 50 scientists.

The Institute of Astrophysics at the Max Planck Institute of Physics and Astrophysics with about 75 staff members, is at present located in Munich, but will soon move to Garching. Its main activities are in the field of theoretical astrophysics.

The area reserved for the research centres is about 2 km north of down-town Garching, a rising little town near river Isar with presently 10,000 inhabitants. During the last few years, a residential area has been developed near the research institutes. There are several schools, kindergartens, day-care centres, shopping centres, a swimming-pool, a youth centre and sports facilities.

The famous "Munich flair" and the large number of recreational grounds in and around Munich (some 2,600 hectares of parks and green plots, Lake Starnberg and Lake Chiemsee, the Alpine and Lower Alpine region) have attracted many Germans and foreigners to the Bavarian capital (in 1974, about 20 per cent of the 1.3 million inhabitants were foreigners), and the international character of Munich is also testified to by a large number of foreign kindergartens and schools. The large number of art treasures, the variety and reputation of Munich's museums, theatres, orchestras and libraries have made Munich one of the most important cultural centres of Germany.

Munich is of course also famous for the February Carnival and the large jugs that are continuously filled and refilled in the many "Bierstuben". It is good to know

that the forest, the lakes and the nearby Alps provide excellent possibilities for vigorous summer and winter sports. No doubt, many ESO people will visit Munich before 1978 to get acquainted with their future town. (Below a map of Munich, showing the ESO site and some of the nearby research facilities.)

## NEWCOMERS TO ESO

Since the last issue of the "Messenger", the following have joined ESO:

### Hamburg

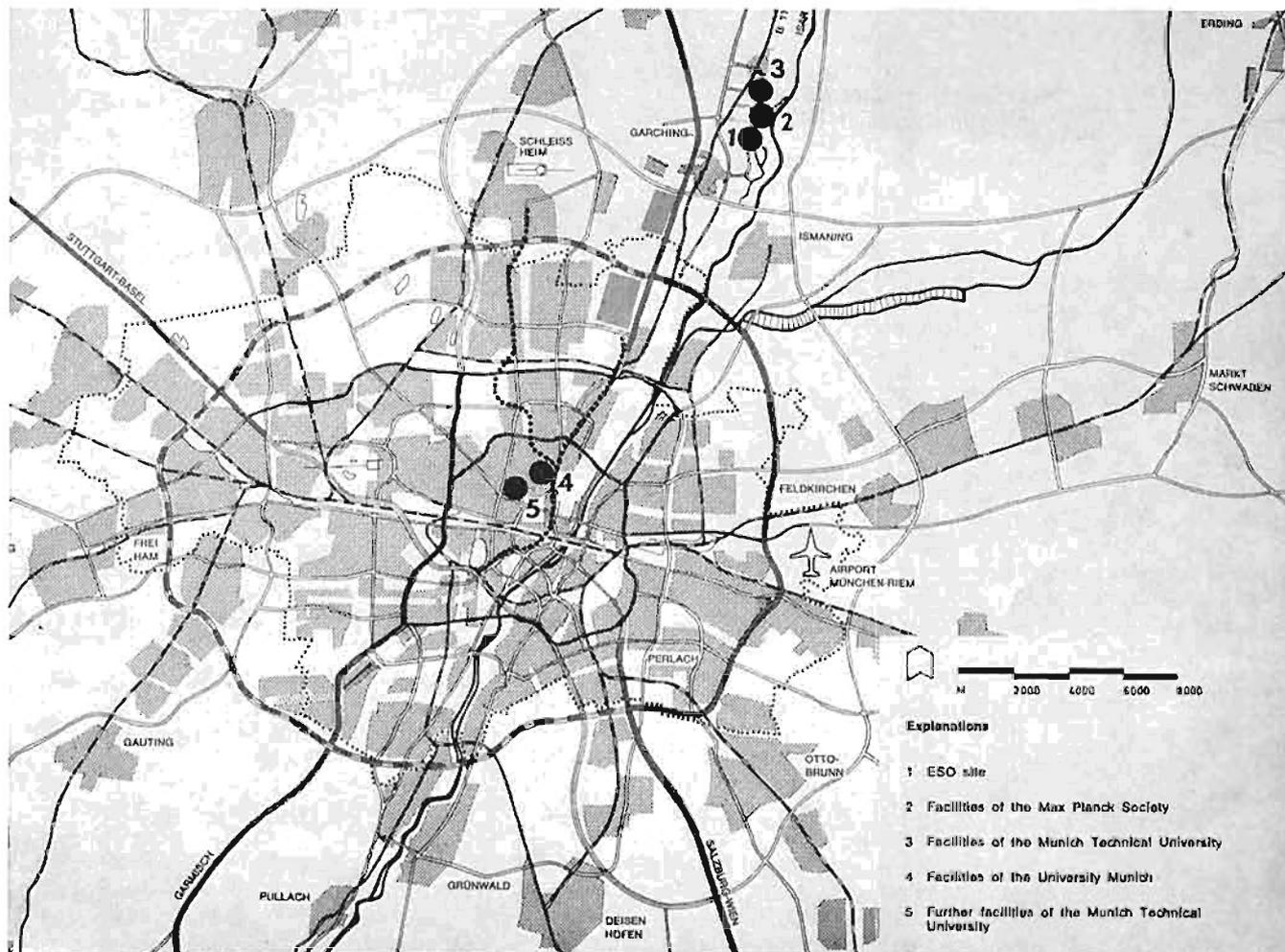
Brenda Bülow, English, secretary  
Beate Bucher, German, clerk-typist

### Chile

Marlnus de Jonge, Dutch, head of domes  
Sölve Andersson, Swedish, electronics technician  
Inge Meinen, German, administrator  
Fred Suter, Swiss, electronics technician

### Geneva

Dominique Liège, French, clerk-typist  
Jean-Claude Fauvet, French, electronics engineer  
Franco Pacini, Italian, astronomer  
Jürgen Materna, German, astronomer  
Michel Dennefeld, French, astronomer  
Philippe Crane, American, astronomer  
Gilles Gouffler, French, accountant  
Hernan Quintana, Chilean, astronomer  
Pierre Tournon-Lacarrière, French, astronomer  
Robert Sanders, American, astronomer



ESO, the European Southern Observatory, was created in 1962 to . . . establish and operate an astronomical observatory in the southern hemisphere, equipped with powerful instruments, with the aim of furthering and organizing collaboration in astronomy . . . It is supported by six countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. It now operates the La Silla observatory in the Atacama desert, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile, at 2,400 m altitude. Seven telescopes with apertures up to 1.5 m are in operation; a 3.6 m telescope will become operational in 1976. The astronomical observations on La Silla are carried out by visiting astronomers—mainly from the member countries—and, to some extent, by ESO staff astronomers, often in collaboration with the former.

The ESO Headquarters in Europe will be located in Garching, near Munich, where early in 1979 all European activities will be centralized. The Office of the Director-General (mainly the ESO Administration) is at present in Hamburg and the scientific-technical group in Geneva, at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research), which since 1970 has been the host Organization of ESO's 3.6 m Telescope Project Division.

ESO has about 120 international staff members in Europe and Chile and about 150 local staff members in Santiago and on La Silla. In addition, there are a number of Fellows and Scientific Associates.

The ESO MESSENGER is published in English four times a year: in March, June, September and December. It is distributed free to ESO employees and others interested in astronomy.

The text of any article may be reprinted if credit is given to ESO. Copies of most illustrations are available to editors without charge.

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## ALGUNOS RESUMENES

### La sede principal europea de ESO en München

En la reunión efectuada el 2 de diciembre de 1975, el Consejo tomó importantes decisiones para el futuro de ESO.

El Consejo aceptó la generosa oferta de la República Federal de Alemania, de un terreno de 1,2 hectáreas y un edificio de 6.000 m<sup>2</sup> en Garching, cerca de München, para establecer ahí la sede principal de la Organización. En esta sede se juntarán todos los departamentos de ESO en Europa, los cuales están actualmente dispersos en Hamburgo y Ginebra.

Para asegurar el óptimo funcionamiento del Observatorio en La Silla, Chile, el Consejo autorizó al Director-General de crear un centro científico-técnico. Este centro también tomará medidas para desenvolver la coordinación del planeamiento de instrumentos a larga escala y de programas de observación con otros grandes proyectos astronómicos en los países miembros. Se espera que el nuevo edificio en Garching será terminado a fines de 1978.

### 1ª. serie de diapositivas de ESO disponible

ESO tiene el placer de anunciar las primeras fotografías tomadas desde el ESO 1 m telescopio Schmidt en Chile. Estas pueden ser obtenidas en forma de una serie de 20 diapositivas, 5 x 5 cm, en blanco y negro, con una pequeña descripción, mostrando algunos de los objetos más espectaculares y hermosos del hemisferio sur, incluyendo las Nubes Magellánicas, el complejo ETA Carina y cúmulo globular Omega Centauri.

El precio de estas magníficas diapositivas es de US\$ 6, correo normal o US\$

### First ESO Slide Set Now Available!

The European Southern Observatory is happy to announce the first photographs from the ESO 1 m Schmidt telescope in Chile. They are available in the form of slide sets consisting of 20 5 x 5 cm, black-and-white slides with brief descriptions, and show some of the southern sky's most spectacular and beautiful objects, including the Magellanic Clouds, The Eta Carinae nebula and Omega Centauri.

The price of this magnificent slide set is Swiss francs 16.— (or the equivalent) for Europe, and US\$ 6.— by surface mail to all other countries, or US\$ 8.50 by airmail (to be paid in advance).

Send cheque or bank draft to:

EUROPEAN SOUTHERN  
OBSERVATORY  
Alte Holstenstraße 1  
D-205 HAMBURG 80  
COMMERZBANK, Hamburg,  
Account No. 6104442

8.50 correo aereo (pagado por adelantado).

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Alte Holstenstraße 1  
205 Hamburg 80  
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Commerzbank, Hamburg.  
Cuenta No. 6104442

### Organización para el Personal Local, La Silla

El directorio de la «Asociación Única para el Personal Local» (AUPL) consta de los siguientes miembros:

Reinaldo Kennell (Presidente)  
Ramón Huidobro (Vice-Presidente)  
Rolando Veliz (Secretario)  
Luis Aguila (Tesorero)  
María Acosta  
Germán González  
José y Alfredo Rozas

## LATEST NEWS

### ESO Comet Rounds the Sun

Comet 1975n (also known as comet West) was found on three plates from the ESO 1 m Schmidt telescope, taken by brothers Oscar and Guido Pizarro. Early predictions by B. Marsden at the Smithsonian Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. USA, indicated that the comet could become a naked-eye object at the beginning of March 1976, just after perihelion passage on February 25.

Observations from New Zealand in early February showed that the comet was somewhat brighter than expected. However, comets are notoriously unpredictable and only observations after the perihelion can show whether 1975n survived the ordeal, when it passes just 30 million kilometres from the sun.

Infrared observations on February 3 show the comet to be very similar to comet 1973 XII (Kohoutek) with plenty of dust around the nucleus. A careful analysis of the available positional observations indicates that 1975n follows a very elongated, elliptical path with a period of about 15,000 years.