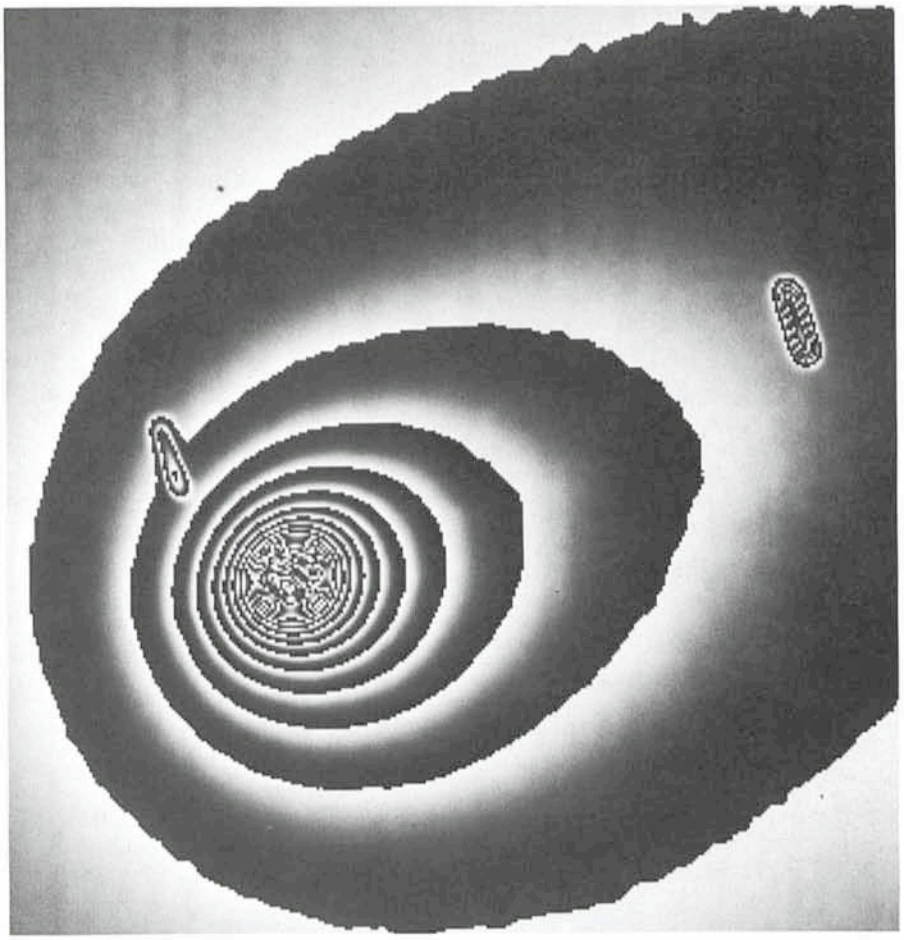
Comet Austin

This is a short NTT CCD exposure of the newly discovered Comet Austin (1989 c1) which may become comparatively bright during mid-April 1990 when it approaches the Sun to within 50 million kilometres. On May 25, it will be only 36 million kilometres from the Earth. After mid-April, it will be well visible from the northern hemisphere in the early morning.

Curves of equal brightness (isophotes) are shown. The stars in the field are trailed because the telescope was set to follow the comet's motions. On this date, the comet had not yet developed a real tail and the image shows the dust cloud (coma) around the nucleus which is overexposed on this image. It is situated at the centre of the isophotes. At the time of the exposure, the comet was nearly 300 million kilometres from the Earth and 255 million kilometres from the Sun, still outside the orbit of planet Mars. The magnitude was about 9.

Technical data: Exposure: 5 minutes; Filter: R; field: 75 × 75 arcsec; Seeing: 1.2 arcsec; Date: January 23, 1990; Observers: P. Bouchet, J. Melnick, L. Pasquini and Ch. Gouiffes.



Professor Pierre Charvin, † January 24, 1990

On January 25, 1990 we at ESO were shocked and saddened by the message of Pierre Charvin's death. President of the Observatoire de Paris and astronomy leader in France, Prof. Charvin always showed a deep interest in ESO affairs and contributed through the years to the development of ESO's relations with astronomical institutes in his country.

The past five years he was a member of our Scientific-Technical Committee and for the last two years he energetically served as STC president. In that function he became very involved in the planning of the VLT and its instrumentation.

In an impressive commemorative meeting, in the Salle Cassini of the Observatoire de Paris, attended by his institute's staff and by astronomers from throughout France, I spoke on ESO's behalf, ending as follows:

"De la part de l'ESO, de notre personnel, de notre communauté des utilisateurs, du directorat de l'ESO, du Conseil et du STC, j'exprime notre sentiment de reconnaissance et notre profond respect. Je suis reconnaissant d'avoir la possibilité de faire cela dans cette salle, m'adressant au personnel de l'Observatoire de Paris et à tous ceux qui sont concernés avec 'notre science' en France. Nos pensées et notre sympathie sont destinées à la famille en deuil. Notre mémoire pour Pierre Charvin est marquée par notre admiration pour son enthousiasme et pour son énergie créatrice."

With profound regret to miss him so prematurely, we pay tribute to this prominent colleague and friend.

Harry van der Laan
Director General

New ESO Scientific Preprints

(December 1989–February 1990)

680. I.J. Danziger et al.: Molecules, Dust and Ionic Abundances in SN 1987A.
L.B. Lucy et al.: Dust Condensation in the Ejecta of SN 1987A, II.
P. Bouchet et al.: The ESO Infrared Data Set.
To be published in *Supernovae*, Proceedings of the 10th Santa Cruz Summer Workshop in Astronomy and Astrophysics, held at UC Santa Cruz, July 10–21, 1989, ed. by S.E. Woosley (Springer-Verlag, New York).

681. S. di Serego Alighieri, G. Trinchieri and E. Brocato: Hα Imaging of X-ray Luminous Early-type Galaxies: Clues on the Hot, Warm and Cold Phases of the ISM. To be published in *Windows on Galaxies*, Fabbiano et al. (eds.), Proc. of Workshop in Erice, 21–31 May 1989.

682. M.R. Rosa and J.S. Mathis: Wolf-Rayet Nebulae – Chemical Enrichment and Effective Temperatures of the Exciting Stars.
M.R. Rosa: Atomic Data for and from the Analysis of Gaseous Nebulae. To be published in: Proceedings of the First Boulder-Munich Workshop on Hot Stars, Boulder, CO, August 1989, C.D. Garmany (ed.), Publ. A.S.P. Conf. Ser.

683. B. Barbanis: Escape Regions of a Quartic Potential. *Celestial Mechanics.*

684. G. Zhao and P. Magain: The Abundance of Scandium in Extreme Metal-Poor Dwarfs. Submitted to Elba Workshop "Chemical and Dynamical Evolution of Galaxies".

685. M.-P. Véron-Cetty and L. Woltjer: Galaxies Around Luminous Quasars. *Astronomy and Astrophysics.*

686. M. Sarazin: ESO Site Evaluation for the VLT. To be published in the *Astrophysics and Space Science* issue devoted to the Proceedings of the XI European Regional Meeting of the IAU, Teneriffe, 3–9 July 1989.

687. F. Fusi Pecci et al.: The Variation of the Red Giant Luminosity Function "Bump" with Metallicity and the Age of the Globular Clusters. *Astronomy and Astrophysics.*

688. G. Zhao and P. Magain: The Chemical Composition of the Extreme Halo Stars: II. Green Spectra of 20 Dwarfs. *Astronomy and Astrophysics.*

689. M. Heydari-Malayeri: Discovery of a Low Mass B[e] Supergiant in the SMC. *Astronomy and Astrophysics.*

690. P.A. Shaver: Radio Recombination Lines at 25 – A Summary of IAU Colloquium No. 125, Puschino, U.S.S.R. To be published in *Radio Recombination Lines: 25 Years of Investigation.* IAU Colloquium No. 125, eds. M.A. Gordon and R.L. Sorochenko. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, the Netherlands.

691. T. Le Bertre: Observational Study of CS 776. *Astronomy and Astrophysics.*

T. Le Bertre, S. Deguchi and Y. Nakada: Contribution to the Interpretation of Carbon Stars Associated with Oxygen-Rich Circumstellar Envelopes. *Astronomy and Astrophysics* Letters.

T. Le Bertre and L.-Å. Nyman: Observations of 86 GHz SiO Maser Emission in Late-type Stars. *Astronomy and Astrophysics.*

T. Le Bertre and H.-E. Schwarz: Photometric and Polarimetric Observations of two IRAS Galactic Sources. *Astronomy and Astrophysics.*

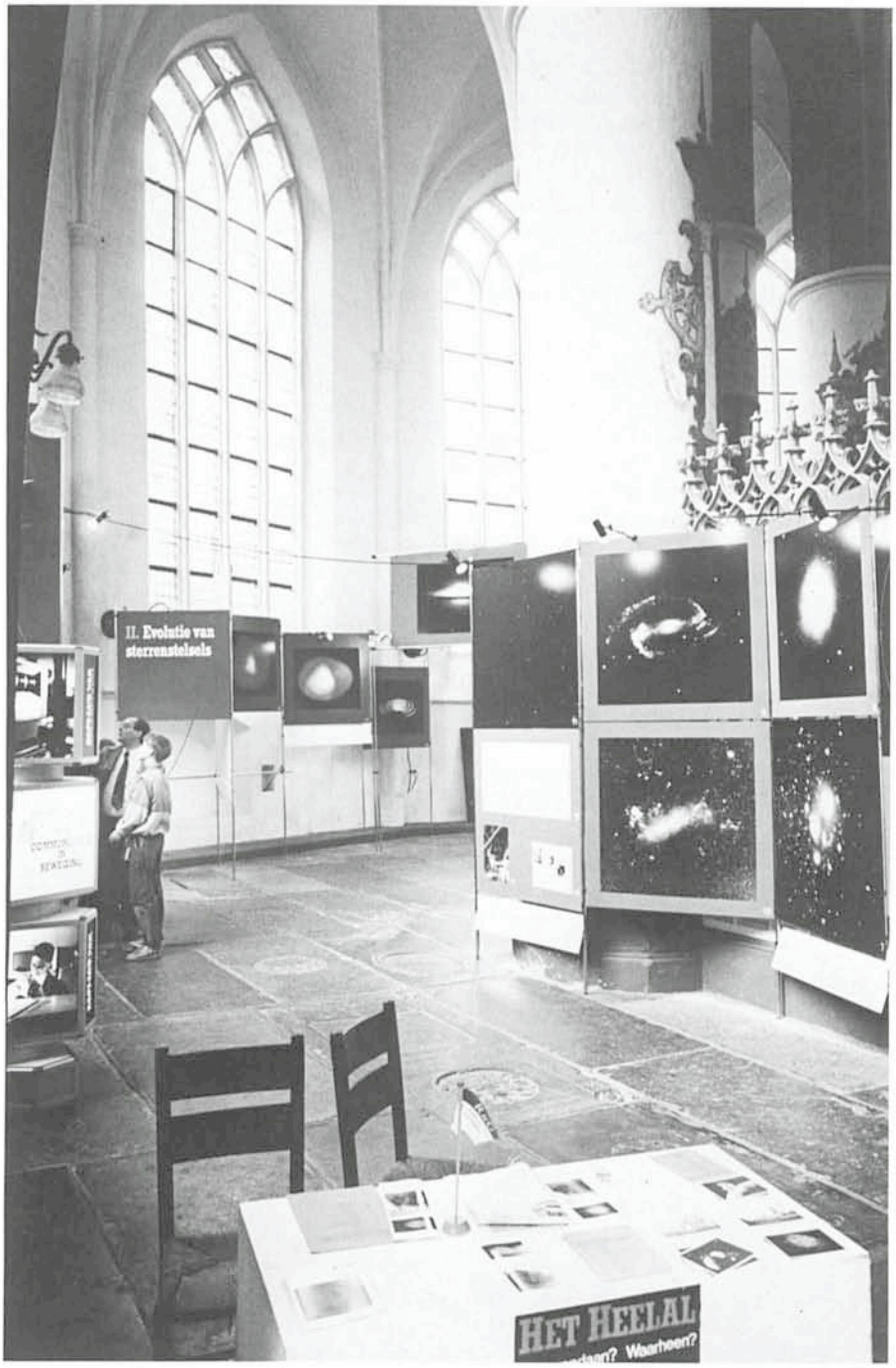
692. F.R. Ferraro et al.: CCD-Photometry of the Galactic Globular Cluster NGC 2808. *Astronomy and Astrophysics Suppl.*

693. P. Bonifacio, F., Castelli and P. Molaro: Chemical Abundances of Two New Extremely Metal Poor Stars. To be published in Proceedings of Elba Workshop on "Chemical and Dynamical Evolution of Galaxies", 4–14 September 1989.

694. F. Matteucci and E. Brocato: Metallicity Distribution and Abundance Ratios in the Stars of the Galactic Bulge. *Astrophysical Journal* Letters.

695. Bo Reipurth: FU Orionis Eruptions and Early Stellar Evolution. Review presented at IAU Symposium No. 137 "Flare Stars in Star Clusters, Associations and the Solar Vicinity", Byurakan, Armenia, USSR, October 23–27, 1989.

696. B. Reipurth et al.: Spectroscopic Pre-Main Sequence Binaries I. Improved Elements of V 826 Tauri. *Astronomy and Astrophysics.*



"Evolution in the Universe"

An exhibition with this title was held last year on the occasion of the 375th anniversary of the University of Groningen. According to the organizers, more than 10,000 people saw the exhibition, to which also ESO contributed. From Groningen, it has now moved to Enschede and it can later be seen in The Hague over the summer, in connection with the COSPAR Plenary Meeting. Here is a view from the set-up in Groningen (photo Wim Melis).

BBC Makes ESO Film

Late last year, the well-known popularizer of astronomy Dr. Patrick Moore, producer Pieter Morpurgo and a camera crew from BBC-TV paid a visit to La Silla in order to produce a new film about ESO. Made on ESO's behalf, this film is a general introduction to the organization and the work carried out at La Silla and Garching. The film substitutes the previous ESO film which was made in 1985.

At the same time, the BBC team prepared two programmes for the popular Sky at Night TV series, which has run on BBC every month for more than 30 years. Devoted to the NTT, the first of the two programmes was broadcast in