



Figure 2: There were many guests at the opening.

dei Cinquecento of Palazzo Vecchio with short speeches by Undersecretary of State for Education, Dr. Matulli, by Dr. Spinetti from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by ESO Council President Prof. Franco Pacini and other representatives of the organizing and supporting bodies. The inauguration was followed by a guided tour through the exhibition proper, with the many guests being divided into groups.

Carrying the title "Frontiers of Astronomy", the exhibition was divided into five sections, with the first two being devoted to current front-line research in astronomy, followed by another two sections about ESO and the VLT. Finally the Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri presented examples of its work as well as other national and international projects with Italian involvement, including the COLUMBUS telescope.



Figure 3: Massimo Tareghi (ESO) describes the VLT site at Paranal.

The contrast between the renaissance surroundings and the exhibition was mirrored in the exhibition itself, as the Museum of Science History had kindly put a series of old instruments on display, including a copy of Galileo's first telescope. ESO's video about the VLT, which takes its starting point in Galileo's first use of an astronomical telescope, provided an audio-visual interface between the exhibition elements of past times and the VLT.

The exhibition was jointly prepared by ESO, the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory and the Museo di Storia della Scienza in Florence, and was open to the public during 6 weeks. Two other events during that period added to the impact of the exhibition – the first being the 3rd National Science week ("Terza settimana della cultura scientifica"), followed by the Annual Meeting of the Italian Astronomical Society, also in Florence.

C. MADSEN, ESO

"Astronomical" Organ Concert in the La Serena Cathedral

Once again visiting astronomer Dominique Proust from the Meudon Observatory (France) will travel to the ESO La Silla Observatory for another observing run in September 1993. This time he will use quite different instruments.

He will first observe with the 3.6-m telescope and OPTOPUS for one of the ESO key programmes, a redshift survey in the south galactic pole region by Vettolani and collaborators. And a

few days later, he will change instrument to perform on September 17 a beneficial organ concert at the La Serena cathedral for "Hogar de la Esperanza", an association which helps youthfully victims of drug and alcohol misuse. The musical programme will centre on the French school, but also includes works by Johann Sebastian Bach and the astronomer/composer William Herschel.

Dominique Proust, in addition to being a full-time astronomer, is also a well-known and successful musician in his own country. His recently published CD with the major organ works of William Herschel (DOM DC 1418) was very well received by the critics. It was recorded in the church of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption in Meudon, on the 1887 Cavalié-Col organ there.