



EDITORIAL

L'Observatoire de Haute-Provence

Having recently visited Haute-Provence Observatory for a second time, I find myself again very much impressed with this fine French national observatory located about 40 miles north of Marseille in the district formerly known as Basses-Alpes but now officially re-named Haute-Provence des Alpes.

The property, comprising 250 acres, is located on the side of a ridge at an altitude of 580 m. and looks across a shallow valley to the village of St. Michel l'Observatoire. Two towns comparable in size to Richmond Hill are about five and ten miles to the north and east. Otherwise the area is pretty nearly rural. Though the astronomers claim that the site is deteriorating because of the growth of the towns, I found the sky incomparably darker than any place in southern Ontario. In other respects (cloudiness, seeing) I am inclined to think that the site is moderately good for spectroscopy and rather poor for photometry.

The Observatory was built, beginning in 1938, by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique as a national observatory to serve all French astronomers. That the French scientists are hospitable is attested by the fact that Haute Provence houses telescopes of Belgians and Swiss and that Danes, Swedes, Americans and others are frequent visiting investigators. - This despite the fact that French astronomers appear to be exceedingly numerous. (I was told for example that Meudon, the section of the Paris Observatory near Paris, has a total working population of 600!)

There are no resident astronomers at Haute Provence; the Director, Dr. Ch. Fehrenbach visits frequently and has a house there, but he spends most of his time at the Observatoire de Marseille of which he is also director. There are hardly any measuring machines or the like at Haute Provence; but there is a large building serving as workshop and electronics laboratory.

There are 13 domes and several small telescopes mounted otherwise. The largest telescope is the 193 cm. telescope, a more modern version of our 74-inch, which is used primarily for photography and coude spectroscopy. A recent addition is a 152-cm. telescope which has only a coude focus and is used exclusively for spectroscopy. With its improved spectrograph (dispersions of 7, 10 and 20 A/mm) it is said to be about twice as fast as the 193-cm! Plans are now afoot to improve the 193-cm's spectrograph. Another notable instrument is the 40-cm. objective prism telescope with which Fehrenbach and his group have made so many radial-velocity determinations by the slitless method devised by him.

If there is one thing that characterizes French telescopes it is elegance of design and operation. For example, though there must be a dozen good ways of transporting a plate holder into the position of the focus of a coude spectrograph and of opening the dark slide, the French, in the fine tradition of the Paris "pneumo", have chosen to do it by compressed air. The attendant hisses, whistles and moans heard against the background of a Brahms symphony from Paris FM in the otherwise silence of the coude room combined to make a new and delightful observing experience.

The visiting astronomers, usually numbering 20-odd, are housed in two fine "hotels", one with strict provisions for daytime quietness, the other equipped with lounges and a dining room and bedrooms for non-observing visitors. The rooms are most comfortable, the cuisine and local wines are superb. Total cost per person about \$3.00 daily.

Vive l'astronomie libre!

J. F. H.

OBSERVING

Dr. van den Bergh has ordered a Zeiss two-co-ordinate measuring engine from a major equipment grant provided by the NRC. This instrument is expected to arrive in Richmond Hill in June.

Dr. van den Bergh reports 83% photometric weather during an observing run with the Cerro Tololo 60-inch in April.

Dr. Racine has inspected the mirror of the 24-inch Las Campanas telescope and reports it "in beautiful shape". It is now on its way to Chile.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Drs. van den Bergh and Hogg attended the "N.U. Mayall Symposium and Dinner" in Tucson on May 8. Dr. van den Bergh also visited Pasadena May 14-15 and Goddard Space Flight Centre May 19.

Drs. Fernie, Heard, Hogg, Kronberg, MacRae, Racine, Seaquist and van den Bergh attended the UVic meetings of the NRC Associate Committee on Astronomy on May 13-15.

Dr. Garrison has returned from an extended observing run in Chile.

Dr. Kronberg will be visiting N.R.A.O., Charlottesville, on June 14-19.

Dr. Percy and Dr. Seaquist attended the 1971 General Assembly of the R.A.S.C. in Hamilton.

Dr. Percy had a successful observing run at Kitt Peak National Observatory May 11-20.

Dr. René Racine visited Berkeley May 10-13 and observed on Mt. Kobau May 16-20.

Jack Winzer has begun a one-month observing run on the Palomar 20-inch telescope in May and June.

SEMINARS

Seminars in May were as announced.

There are no seminars in June except those of the June Institute, which are as follows: By Dr. George W. Preston, Hale Observatories: "Stellar Magnetic Geometries"; "The Oblique Rotator Model"; "Various Hypotheses of the Origin of Chemical Anomalies"; "Rotational Deceleration of Magnetic Stars". By Dr. Icko Iben, M.I.T.: "The Evolution of Globular Cluster Stars"; "Pulsation Properties of Globular Cluster Stars"; "Disk Population Stars - Theory and Observation Compared"; "Solar Physics and Solar Neutrinos". By Dr. Leon Mestel, Manchester: "Magnetic Stars - A Review"; "The External Dynamics of the Oblique Rotator"; "The Internal Dynamics of the Oblique Rotator"; "The Pulsar Magnetosphere". By Dr. Halton C. Arp, Hale Observatories: "Relation of Quasi-Stellar Objects to Other Galaxies"; "Ejection Phenomena in Galaxies and Spiral Galaxies"; "Ejection Phenomena in Galaxies and Spiral Galaxies"; "Groups of Galaxies and Anomalous Redshifts"; "Redshift Mechanisms and Extragalactic Faraday Rotations".

PAPERS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION

W. Gorza and J. F. Heard	"Spectroscopic Orbits of the Binary Systems HD128661, AR Cas, β Ari, HD209813"
S. van Agt and C. Coutts	"Faint Supernova in an Anonymous Southern Galaxy"
E. R. Seaquist	"Circular Polarization of Synchrotron Radiation in the Presence of Hydromagnetic Waves"
E. R. Seaquist	"Circular Polarization of the Radio Source PKS 1127-14 at 3240 MHz"
C. Coutts	"Variables in Messier 5: a Study of Mount Wilson 1917 Observations"
C. Coutts and H. S. Hogg	"Studies of the Variables in the Globular Cluster NGC 6171"
P. P. Kronberg et al	"Polarization of Radio Sources at $\lambda 73$ cm"

NRC ASSOCIATE COMMITTEE ON ASTRONOMY

The first meeting of this Committee, which succeeds the old National Committee for the IAU, took place at UVic on May 13 to 15, 1971. The President of the Committee is Dr. K. O. Wright of DAO, and the Secretary is Dr. Gordon Walker of UBC. Toronto members of the committee are Drs. Heard, Hogg, Kronberg and MacRae.

The purpose of the Committee is twofold: to serve as a Canadian committee for the IAU and to advise NRC on matters of policy regarding Canadian astronomy.

The prime items of business were: firstly, the presentation of reports from universities and observatories across the country outlining the present state and future needs of astronomical activity; and secondly, the setting-up of sub-committees to formulate reports and recommendations concerning Canadian astronomy under such separate headings as optical astronomy, radio astronomy, x-ray astronomy, instrumentation, public relations, etc. Toronto astronomers, both members and non-members of the Advisory Committee, are well represented on the sub-committees.

Sandwiched between the two sessions of the committee meeting was a program of astronomical papers, 40 in all, including the following by Toronto astronomers:

J. D. Fernie	"Photometry of R Coronae Borealis"
D. Hanes and R. Racine	"Globular Clusters in M87"
J. F. Heard	"Selection of Ninth Magnitude Stars to serve as Radial Velocity Standard"
P. P. Kronberg	"A Study of 3C452 and 3C270"
P. P. Kronberg, R. G. Strom, and R. G. Conway	"Linear Polarization of Radio Sources at Lambda 73 cms."
E. R. Seaquist	"PKS 1127-14, A Quasar with an Unusually Strong Magnetic Field?"
S. van den Bergh	"The Post-Eruptive Galaxy M82"
J. L. Yen and others	"Observations of Structure in Quasi-Stellar Radio Sources"

FOUNDING OF THE CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

A special meeting of astronomers attending the NRC Advisory Committee meeting and the session for astronomical papers at UVic was called to discuss the formation of a professional society for Canadian astronomers. About 60 persons were in attendance. Dr. Heard was initially in the chair and Dr. Gordon Walker acted as recorder.

After a good deal of discussion of a tentative set of terms of reference, the meeting voted without dissent to found the Canadian Astronomical Society, and by ballot selected a group of 7 astronomers to serve as an executive committee for one year to formulate a constitution and to set up a secretariat. The members of this provisional executive body are:

A. H. Batten, DAO
G. Beaudet, U. of Montreal
H. S. Hogg, Toronto
P. M. Millman, NRC
R. Racine, Toronto
W. Shuter, UBC
J. Tatum, UVic.

Until such time as these 7 choose officers, Dr. Hogg serves as Chairman.

About 40 persons signed up for membership at the founding meeting, and charter membership is to remain open until June 30, 1971. Briefly, the qualifications for membership are:

- (a) engaged in astronomy
- (b) at least a Master's degree
- (c) have published on an astronomical topic
- (d) normally resident in Canada.

Annual dues have been set at \$20 for senior members and \$10 for student members.

HONOURS

The degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, was conferred on Dr. Heard at the Convocation of May 28 at the University of Western Ontario.

MISSING PERIODICALS!

Current periodicals will be sent to the bindery on June 30 and will therefore be missing from the D.D.O. library for a few weeks.

MISCELLANY

Dr. Percy addressed the Toronto Board of Education physics teachers on "Activities in Astronomy" on April 28.

Dr. Kronberg has been appointed to the General Policy Committee of Scarborough College.

VISITOR

Dr. Francois Biraud, NRAO and Meudon Observatory, visited the Department on May 28.

LEAVING

After many years of cheerful and efficient service to the Observatory, Ursula Dewsbury is leaving on June 4. On May 21 she was given a luncheon and a going-away gift by the ladies of the DDO and the Department, and on May 25, at countdown, she was presented with a gift (a bathinette) for her impending arrival. The Dewsburys are moving to Newmarket in August, and we wish them well in their new home, with their new family.