



● La Silla
● La Serena
● Santiago

● Hamburg

● Geneva

No. 1 — May 1974

To All ESO Staff Members

A todo el personal de ESO

With this issue, we launch the ESO MESSENGER in its orbit in ESO, and wish it a fruitful mission. Its task will be, first of all, to promote the participation of ESO staff in what goes on in the Organization, especially at places of duty other than our own. Moreover, THE MESSENGER may serve to give the world outside some impression of what happens inside ESO.

The need for more internal communication within ESO is felt by many of the staff. The dispersion of our resources over several countries in widely separated continents demands a special effort to keep us aware of what is going on at the other establishments. Our tasks are always part of one large adventure that can fare well only if each of its components is healthily adjusted to the others.

The contents of THE MESSENGER will be varied to include occasional progress reports on our main projects as well as information on general developments and messages concerning personnel. This first issue may be taken as an indication of the character we have in mind, but clearly it will be only in the course of time that THE MESSENGER will find its proper shape. Time also will show how large the newsletter should be and how often it should appear. For the moment we think that three-month intervals will be about right. Certain articles for this first issue were obtained at a rather early stage in the preparations, but they are considered to be still of sufficient interest for inclusion.



Prof. A. Blaauw
Director-General, ESO

Con la presente edición estamos lanzando EL MENSAJERO ESO en su órbita y le deseamos una exitosa misión. Su objetivo será en primer lugar informar al personal de ESO sobre lo que sucede dentro de la Organización, especialmente en lugares distintos al propio lugar de trabajo. Además, EL MENSAJERO servirá para dar una impresión al mundo externo de lo que ocurre dentro de ESO.

Un gran número del personal de ESO ha sentido la necesidad de tener una mayor comunicación interna. Debido a la dispersión de nuestros recursos en varios países ubicados en distintos continentes se requiere un esfuerzo especial para informar sobre lo que sucede en los demás establecimientos. Nuestras tareas siempre forman parte de una gran aventura que sólo puede llegar a un feliz término si todos sus componentes se ajustan sanamente unas a otras.

En cuanto al contenido del MENSAJERO éste tendrá la suficiente variación como para incluir informes sobre el progreso de nuestros principales proyectos como también mensajes sobre el desarrollo en general y sobre el personal. Rogamos aceptar esta primera edición como una indicación sobre lo que estamos tratando de presentar, porque sólo con el transcurso del tiempo EL MENSAJERO encontrará la forma más apropiada. También sólo el tiempo demostrará el tamaño que deberá tener este informativo y la frecuencia con la cual deberá aparecer. Por el momento opinamos que una publicación trimestral es la más indicada. Algunos

The editor, Mr. Walsh, has asked several members of our staff to help in acquiring contributions and it has been agreed that a few coordinators will act at the various establishments: Dr. Havlen in Chile and Mr. Rodgers in Geneva. Their collaboration will be much appreciated.

THE MESSENGER is intended to reach all ESO staff whatever their native language, and therefore we shall include contributions in Spanish. Abstracts of some of the other articles will be given. A. Blaauw

artículos en esta primera edición fueron recibidos hace ya bastante tiempo, pero pensamos que aún tienen suficiente interés para incluirlos.

El redactor, Sr. Walsh, ha pedido la cooperación de varios miembros del personal para recibir informaciones y se ha acordado que este trabajo será realizado por algunos coordinadores en los distintos establecimientos: Dr. Havlen en Chile y Sr. Rodgers en Ginebra. Su colaboración será altamente apreciada.

Es nuestra intención que EL MENSAJERO llegue a todo el personal de ESO cualesquiera que sea su idioma, y es por eso que incluiremos artículos en castellano. Se harán resúmenes de algunos de los demás artículos.

Preparations for ESO/SRC Conference

Preparations are under way for the ESO/SRC conference on "Research Programmes for the New Large Telescopes", to be held at CERN on May 27-31, 1974.

This conference will be in line with previous ESO meetings dealing with large telescope design and with auxiliary instrumentation developments, and the emphasis is to be on the southern hemisphere.

With three large southern telescopes soon becoming operational (CTIO, Anglo-Australian and ESO), there are good reasons for having joint discussions with participants from the large projects outside ESO concerning the first areas for research with these instruments.

The programme as presently outlined will comprise seven half-day sessions — one afternoon will be devoted to an excursion to the CERN laboratories — covering the following topics:

Research programmes for large telescopes now in operation,
Southern hemisphere problems,
Observational cosmology,
Instrumental capabilities,
Philosophy of telescope use.

The conference will start on Monday afternoon with an introductory talk given by Dr. J. L. Greenstein of the California Institute of Technology and the Hale Observatories, dealing with large telescope astronomy in general. Dr. Greenstein has been chairman of the Astronomy Survey Committee of the U. S. National Academy of Sciences, whose task it was to consider the need for major new astronomical facilities in the United States during the seventies. The results and recommendations of the Survey Committee are embodied in two volumes, entitled "Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 1970s". Clearly Dr. Greenstein's involvement in this project makes him eminently suited to give the introductory talk at the conference.

Dr. Greenstein's lecture will be followed by shorter contributions by speakers from the big observatories

— Hale, Lick and Kitt Peak — on research carried out or planned for the near future at these institutes.

Following the first introductory session, lectures on specialized topics are scheduled for the next day: infrared astronomy, nearby galaxies, quasi-stellar objects, globular clusters in the southern sky and so on.

In the afternoon session of the second day, theoretical aspects will be covered, an introductory paper being followed by shorter contributions on specialized subjects.

The Wednesday morning session will be devoted entirely to the Magellanic Clouds, on which a special symposium was arranged in Santiago in March, 1969, in connection with the inauguration of the ESO Observatory on La Silla.

The afternoon is reserved for an excursion to the CERN facilities.

The Thursday morning session will deal with observational cosmology, an introductory talk followed by contributions presenting optical and radio-astronomical aspects of cosmological problems.

In the Thursday afternoon session instrumental capabilities will be discussed from a classical point of view. The new photographic emulsions and new powerful techniques for sensitizing photographic plates are bringing about a renaissance in astronomical photography. This session will be in the form of a panel discussion with four introductory speakers, dealing with the astronomical applications of the new emulsions, the extraction of information from photographic plates using fast computer technique and further reports on the ESO Sky Atlas and the parallel Science Research Council southern sky Schmidt project.

The last session, on Friday morning, will be in the form of a panel discussion on a subject being raised probably for the first time at a conference: the philosophy of telescope use. This discussion concerning the allocation of time on large telescopes, with reference to the very high hourly operational costs, the search for more efficient methods of telescope use and so on, will undoubtedly give rise to a varied exchange of opinions. A. Reiz