

INTRODUCTION

In order to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the foundation of the Catholic University of Chile, Santiago de Chile, the 85th Anniversary of "first light" through the 93cm Cassegrain telescope at the University M. Foster Observatory (the former Lick Southern Station, at Cerro San Cristóbal) and the installation of the new offices and laboratories of the Astrophysics Group in the San Joaquin Campus of the University, we have invited astronomers and graduate students working in Chile to participate in a scientific conference titled **Optical Astronomy from Chile** held in 1989, January 11-13. We intended to cover various aspects of actual and future research in optical astronomy which is being, or could be, carried out from Chile. The aim of the meeting was also to stimulate possible collaborations between astronomers within and outside of Chile. Several astronomers from abroad gave invited talks which were the only presentations in oral form. Contributed papers have been presented as posters.

The program was started on Wednesday, January 11 at 17 p.m., with an official act of inauguration of the new offices and laboratories of the Astrophysics Group in the San Joaquin Campus, with the Rector of the University, Dr. Juan de Dios Vial Correa and the Dean of the Physics Faculty, Dr. Ricardo Ramírez as the speakers, followed by the visit of the new installations and a cocktail. About 120 persons were present, among them local authorities as well as astronomers from various countries.

On January 12 and 13 the sessions of invited papers were held. In the late afternoon of January 12 there was a Panel Discussion *"Optical Astronomy in Chile: Opportunities and Development Perspectives"*, (Moderator: H. Quintana) with contributions of J. Sahade (past president IAU, Observatorio Astronómico, La Plata), C. Anguita and J. Maza (Astronomy Department, Universidad de Chile), V. Blanco (Cerro Tololo Interamerican Observatory), R. West (European Southern Observatory), G. Alcaíno (Instituto Isaac-Newton) and J. Urzua (President, Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica), followed by W. Liller presenting his paper *"The Archaeoastronomy of Easter Island"* (see page 46) as a public talk. The conference was closed with a visit of the Observatory "Manuel Foster" of the Catholic University at Cerro San Cristóbal, followed by a barbecue dinner at the Observatory.

The first part of the Proceedings contain all those invited papers for which complete manuscripts or abstracts have been received. In addition, three papers were presented for which, unfortunately, no written versions are available:

H. van der Laan, European Southern Observatory, Garching, West Germany: *"ESO's New Telescopes: The NTT and the VLT"* (presented by Dr. R. West).

R.M. West, European Southern Observatory, Garching, West Germany: *"Cometary Astronomy after Comet Halley"*.

C.J. Pritchett, University of Victoria, Canada: *"The Search of Primeval Galaxies"*.

The second and final part of the Proceeding gives abstracts of the posters presented.

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