Hipparchos

The Hellenic Astronomical Society Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2, Year 1 **January 1996**

Message from the President

I contact you again after the most successful Hellenic Astronomical Conference in Thessaloniki last Summer. This Conference, described in detail elsewhere in this Newsletter, brought together about 150 participants and proved the vitality of our Society. The program was full, with three parallel sessions, besides the general invited lectures. In total about 160 papers were presented. I was particularly happy to see several greek astronomers from abroad and about 30 non-greek participants from neighbouring countries like Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Rumania, but also from Austria, Belgium, Chile, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

This Conference was a major step in establishing our Society. Therefore I should thank warmly the Scientific and Local Organizing Committees for their excellent work. Most of the credit goes to the local organizers, under the constant supervision of Drs. J.H. Seiradakis, M. Contadakis and H. Varvoglis.

As a sequence of this Meeting we have already started planning the 3rd Hellenic Astronomical Conference, that will take place together with the General Meeting of the European Astronomical Society, in Thessaloniki, during the summer of 1997. This Meeting is part of the cultural activities that will take place in 1997, when Thessaloniki will be the Cultural Capital of Europe. We are happy that the EAS has already accepted our invitation (EAS Newsletter 12, November '95), and we expect a great number of European astronomers at that time.

Now that our Society has more than 180 members we look forward with confidence towards the future of Greek astronomy and of our collaborations with our Colleagues abroad. During last summer the largest Greek telescope (130 cm) was inaugurated at Skinakas, Crete (described elsewhere in this Newsletter) that can also be used by foreign astronomers.

A number of international astronomical meetings were organized in Greece during 1995 and our members participated in the organization of many more meetings abroad. Thus a fruitful exchange of astronomers is established that is beneficial both for the Greek astronomers and our friends abroad. I trust that this trend will continue and increase for the benefit of Astronomy internationally.

The President of HEL.A.S.
G.Contopoulos

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2nd Hellenic Astronomical Conference

The second Hellenic Astronomical Conference took place in Thessaloniki between June 29 and July 1, 1995. The Conference was organized by the Hellenic Astronomical Society under the auspices of the University of Thessaloniki, the University of Athens, the National Astronomical Committee and the National Observatory of Athens.

About 150 participants from 13 countries exchanged their scientific expertise and secured their social bonds during a three-day conference that took place at the hotel *Xenia-Helios* in Perea,a resort suburb about 20 km SE from Thessaloniki.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Minister of Macedonia and Thrace, representatives of the Municipality of Thessaloniki, the Mayor of Perea and a large number of other public and scientific representatives. Extensive reference was made to the work of the late Academician Xanthakis, to whose memory the conference was dedicated. The scientific sessions were divided into six *subjects*, each covering a well defined area of Astronomy: 1. *Sun and the Planetary System*. 2. *Stars and Stellar Systems*. 3. *Galaxies and Extragalactic Systems*. 4. *Relativity, Relativistic Astrophysics and Cosmology*. 5. *Celestial Mechanics, Stellar Dynamics and Chaotic Systems*. 6. *Astronomical Infrastructure in Greece*. Invited talks by experts in these areas presented over-

(Continued on page 7)

S. Chandrasekhar: A friend of Greece

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, my teacher and friend, has passed away in August 1995. Chandra, as he liked to be addressed by his colleagues, was a great scientist and a blessed human being. His scientific achievements will remain guiding lights forever and his kindness for his fellow men will be an example for those who knew him more closely.

I had the privilege of being his 41st student for Ph. D. at the University of Chicago around 1970. He had started to work in general relativity a few years ago and I had the opportunity to discuss with him many times Einstein's theory. Every time, he conversed with me as being in another world, where only scientific concepts and arguments existed and I followed him. To his students was always friendly but firm in his demands for perfection. To his colleagues was the prototype of what a scientist should be. He combined knowledge of mathematics and understanding of physics that resulted in a vision of what should be done in any particular problem. He served science for more than half a century, consistently and faithfully, with hard work, humility and devotion, as a monk serves in a monastery. He has set an example for all those who knew him.

Chandra preferred to work on scientific problems with young scientists. His closest collaborator was Basilis Xanthopoulos, a Greek and dear friend of mine. Their collaboration started at the University of Chicago, where Basilis was studying for his Ph. D., and has lasted for many years and gave many papers on black holes, colliding gravitational waves, perturbations of space-times and other topics of general relativity. Basilis, who had lost his father very young, felt always an exceptional admiration and respect for Chandra. When in 1990 Basilis was assassinated by a deranged gunman while teaching, Chandra's grief was immense: He felt he had lost a son.

Chandra had visited Greece many times. He gave many lectures at the Universities of Thessaloniki, Athens and Crete. George Contopoulos and I had the opportunity to offer him the traditional Greek hospitality and Chandra was amused at our attempts to smooth out the details for making his stay easier. He and his wife liked Greece and loved Basilis. Chandra has worked and has helped many other Greeks at various stages of their career. He was a friend of Greece.

S. Chandrasekhar (extreme right) and some of his students. Among others are recognized: R. Geroch (1, extreme left), S. Bonanos (2), G.F.R. Ellis (4), Bonnie D. Miller (5), B. Carter (6), R. Hansen (7), F.P. Esposito (8) and S. Persides (10)

While Thessaloniki was my permanent base I went many times to Chicago for research work or to see Chandra from 1971 to 1995. He was always happy to see me and help me in my work. He was listening to my problems and discussed his problems with me. While on blackboard or during coffee time he had a very personal pattern of argumentation. In lecturing he often started saying that the subject was very difficult and other people were more qualified than him to talk about it. He continued to present his work and somehow through his results he emerged far ahead of the others. He was a master in captivating his audience.

In the spring of 1992 Chandra and I were walking from the Fermi Institute to the library at the University of Chicago. I had been there for a month and I was leaving next morning. His walk was not as fast or steady as it used to be in my previous visits. He was feeling his strength to diminish and I told him not to work so hard. We were discussing the evidence for closed or open universe. Then I told him that I was leaving early next morning. He stopped and said to me: "You see, Sotirios, everything has an end." I felt that his remark was not about the universe or my stay. He avoided saying good-bye to me. He knew the end was close but he was determined to finish his book on Newton's Principia. While helping him on the book I observed many times his remarkable determination and his persistence on his goal. He did not allow the end to come before reaching his objective.

Chandra's life has been dominated by love for science and respect for his fellow man. It is an example for his colleagues and students to cherish and follow. It is a legacy for us and the future generations.

S. Persides

New members of HEL.A.S.

In January 1995, sixty six new members were elected during the General Assembly of the Society in accordance with our Constitution. The membership of the Society has therefore grown to 140. 49 members were elected as *Ordinary* members and 17 as *Junior* members. It is obvious that the *Hellenic Astronomical Society* represents already the flat majority of the greek professional astronomers. Together with the fact that it has become an affiliated member of the *European Astronomical Society* and that it has successfully organized the *2nd Hellenic Astronomical Conference* (see separate collumns) gives it a distinguished status internationally.

The new members are listed below in alphabetical order. Small changes may have occured since they were elected:

α) New Ordinary Members

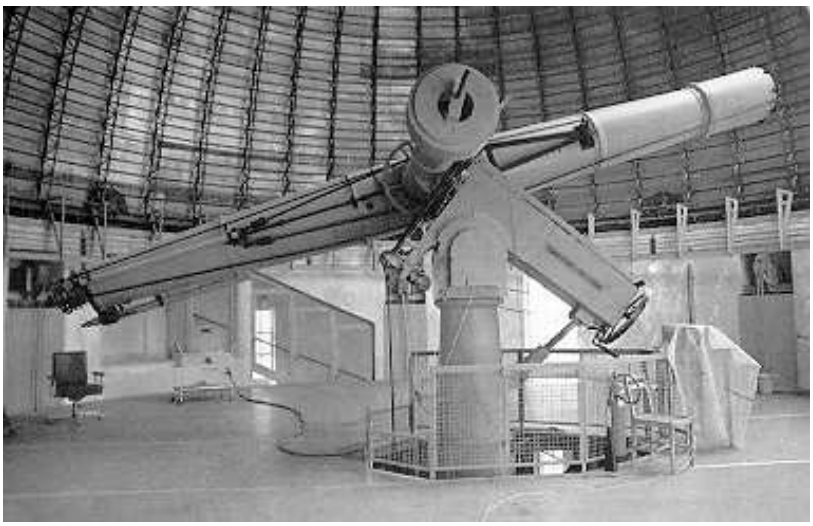
1. Anagnostopoulos Georgios, Assistant Professor (University of Thrace)
2. Antonakopoulos Grigorios, Professor (University of Patras)
3. Baan Willem, (Arecibo Observatory, Puerto Rico)
4. Banos Kosmas, Researcher (National Observatory, Athens)
5. Christodoulou M. Demetrios, (University of Virginia, USA)
6. Contopoulos Ioannis, (NASA Goddard, MD, USA)
7. Daglis Ioannnis, (MPI fur Aeronomie, Lindau, Germany)
8. Dandouras Ioannis, (CESR Toulouse, France)
9. Dapergolas Anastasios, Researcher (National Observatory of Athens)
10. Dialetis Demetrios, Researcher (National Observatory, Athens)
11. Diplas Athanasios, (University of California, San Diego, USA)
12. Gousidou-Koutita Maria, Assistant Professor (University of Thessaloniki)
13. Hadjidemetriou Despoina, Lecturer (University of Crete)
14. Haliasos Evangellos, Teacher (Athens)
15. Hantzios Panagiotis, Researcher (National Observatory, Athens)
16. Harlaftis Emilios, (University of St. Andrews, Scotland)
17. Kafatos Menas, (George Mason University)
18. Kalvourides Tilemahos, Assistant Professor (National Technical University, Athens)
19. Katsis Demetrios, (Athens)
20. Krimigis Stamatios, (Johns Hopkins University, MD, USA)
21. Lyritzis Ioannis, Researcher (Academy of Athens)
22. Mavraganis Anastasios, Assistant Professor (National Technical University, Athens)
23. Mertzanides, Konstantinos, Teacher (Kavala)
24. Metaxa Margarita, Teacher (Athens)
25. Michaelides Panagiotis, Assistant Professor (Pedagogical Institute of Crete)
26. Mihalas Dimitrios, (University of Illinois, USA)
27. Nickas George, (Hanover College, Indiana, USA)
28. Pangalos Konstantinos, (Athens)
29. Papadopoulos Dennis, (University of Maryland, USA)
30. Papageorgiou Christos, Professor (TEI Thessaloniki)
31. Papathanasiou Maria, Assistant Professor (University of Athens)
32. Patsis Panagiotis, (European Southern Observatory, Germany)
33. Perivolaropoulos Leandros, (Harvard, USA)
34. Polatides Antonios (Thessaloniki)
35. Preka-Papadema Panagiota, Assistant Professor (University of Athens)
36. Rovithis Petros, Researcher (National Observatory, Athens)
37. Sakellariadou Maria, (Zurich University)
38. Sarris Emmanuel, Professor (University of Thrace)
39. Savvidy George, Researcher (University of Crete)
40. Seimenis Ioannis, Lecturer (Aegean University)
41. Tombulides Hariton, Teacher (Naoussa)
42. Tsambarlis Michael, Assistant Professor (University of Athens)
43. Tzioumis Anastasios, (Australia Telescope, Australia)
44. Vaiopoulos Demetrios, Assistant Professor (University of Athens)
45. Vlahos Demetrios, Professor (University of Thessaloniki)
46. Voyiatzis Georgios, Researcher (University of Thessaloniki)
47. Vozikis Christos, Researcher (University of Thessaloniki)
48. Zahilas Loukas, (University of Crete)
49. Zikides Michael, Teacher (Athens)

β) New Junior Members

1. Charmandaris Vassilios (Iowa State University, USA)
2. Efthymiopoulos Christos (University of Athens)
3. Georganopoulos Markos (Boston University, USA)
4. Grousouzakou Evangelia (University of Athens)
5. Hadjifoteinou Aikaterini (University of Thessaloniki)
6. Harsoula Maris (University of Athens)
7. Kalogera Vassiliki (University of Illinois, USA)
8. Kalimeris Anastasios (University of Athens)
9. Kleides Konstantinos (University of Thessaloniki)
10. Meletlidou Efthymia (University of Thessaloniki)
11. Michalakis Demetrios (National Observatory, Athens)
12. Plataniotis Petros (University of Athens)
13. Psaltis Demetrios (University of Illinois, USA)
14. Siopis Christos (University of Florida, USA)
15. Skokos Charalambos (University of Athens)
16. Taramopoulos Athanasios (University of Pittsburgh, USA)
17. Vourlidas Angelos, NRAO (VLA, USA)

During (and shortly after) the 2nd Hellenic Astronomical Conference, 45 new applications were received. They have been examined and accepted by the Council of *HEL.A.S.* and the General Assembly of the Society in January 1996. Thus the total number of members is now over 180.

CENTRE OF EDUCATION AND POPULARIZATION OF ASTRONOMY AT THE ATHENS OBSERVATORY



The 63 cm Newall refractor of the Astronomical Station at Pendeli

Our knowledge about the Universe has been transformed in the last decade by a series of dramatic discoveries that has left most reference books of Astronomy completely overtaken by the onward rush of data. The observations have revealed a remarkable range of unexpected phenomena that have radically changed our direction of research. This knowledge is unequivocally tied with the ultimate education of all people in our planet with direct consequences to our cultural development.

Most large Observatories around the world have well organized *Visitor Centers* where, with the aid of scientific exhibitions,seminars, access to observations and other educational material, the public is aquainted with the most recent results concerning our knowledge about the Universe. and gets informed about the research activities of the Observatory. It has been obvious that the public interest in these subjects extends well beyond the quest of new knowledge, it is rather overwhelmed by a desire of direct participation to the efforts of unveiling the secrets of the Cosmos.

The Athens Observatory, the oldest research foundation in Greece, is an official establishment with sufficient infrastructure for the popularization of Astronomy in Greece. Indeed, in 1995, the Athens Observatory received a grant (160 Mi. drachmas) from the *General Secretariat of Research and Development* in order to improve its research and educational facilities. Under the project "*Open Gates" (Ανοιχτες Θύρες)* the Public Education division of the Astronomical Station of Penteli was reorganized by upgrading its lecture rooms, refurbishing its telescopes, establishing a video-production unit and subsequently opening its gates to the public (schools, amateur astronomers, etc.) in an attempt to broaden its activities towards closer links with the greek society.

Nikos Matsopoulos
Penteli Station

THE FINANCES OF *HEL.A.S.*

The main income of our Society is the annual fees of its members. The response to my recent letter has been excellent. Still, I urge the members that have not yet paid their dues, to do so, as soon as possible. Due to our banking system, it is easier for me to cash your cheque if you include my name on it. I shall immediately mail the receipt to you. Members that have not settled their accounts, will not be eligible to participate to the Society's elections that will take place this summer.

Contrary to my expectations, the 2nd Hellenic Conference, did not burden the Society's budget. This was mainly due to the fact that a large number of members took the opportunity to settle their accounts during the Conference. Since its founding, *HEL.A.S* has received from subscriptions and dues the total amount of 1,324,000 drachmas. Another 200,000 drachmas was received as a grant, during the Conference from the *Bank of Macedonia and Thrace* and from the *Hellenic Sugar Industry* bringing the total amount received up to now to around 1,542,000 drachmas. The total expenditure, up to now, (mainly post stamps, a few tickets for the members of the Council in order to participate to the Council meetings and partial financial support to three members of the Society to attend the 1995 JENAM in Sicily) has been 232,000 drachmas. I expect that some money will still go towards the 2nd Hellenic Conference, the finances of which are still not settled.

Another subject of financial interest to the members of *HEL.A.S.* is that since our Society became an A*ffiliated Member* of the *European Astronomical Society (E.A.S.)*, we are intitled to a reduced subscription to the *European Society* (40 SF instead of 50 for *Ordinary Members* and 20 SF instead of 25 for *Junior Members*). This settlement can be achieved by paying your *E.A.S.* dues through your National Society (i.e. *HEL.A.S.*). I am currently in correspondence with the Treasurer of the *E.A.S.* to find a way that this can be accomplished.

P.G.Laskaridis
Treasurer of *HEL.A.S.*

European Astronomy at the Canarian Observatories

Observational Greek astronomy has been largely confined on existing national facilities in the past and access to international Observatories has been mainly via individual collaborations rather than state-membership. However, recent developments driven by the Instituto de Astrofisico de Canarias, Spain offer the opportunity to use the international installations at the Canarian Observatories.

In particular, the European Union is funding under the "*Programme for the Training and Mobility of Researchers (Access to Large-Scale Facilities*" the costs of observing runs and scientific meetings related to an awarded International Time (IT) Programme (in which Greek astronomers can be participants of) at the Canarian Observatories.

Furthermore, astronomers from Greece (or any other country of EU or EFTA which has no facilities at the Canarian Observatories) can submit IT proposals as principal investigators, in collaboration with astronomers from countries who are partners in the Canarian Observatories, with the aim of pursuing a large-scale astrophysical investigation.

The IT is 5% of all observing time available at the Observatorio Roque de los Muchachos (La Palma) and the Teide Observatorio (Tenerife) which is approximately up to 18 nights/days on 10 telescopes evenly spread throughout the year.

The International Scientific Committee selects the most outstanding IT solar and night-time proposal in November every year. The deadline for submissions is 31 July. The facilities of the Observatories are described in a special issue of Astrophysical Letters & Communications (1991, Vol 28, p. 45).

The available telescopes for the IT project are:

Night-time	Solar
4.2m WHT, La Palma	70cm VTT, Tenerife
2.5m INT, La Palma	50cm VST, La Palma
2.5m NOT, La Palma	45cm GCT, Tenerife
1.5m CST, Tenerife	40cm VNT, Tenerife
1.0m JKT, La Palma	
0.2m CAMC, La Palma	

The IT awards so far have been given to:

1988-89: Van Paradijs et al, Amsterdam: *Accretion Disc Evolution in Cataclysmic Variables.*

1989-90: Penston et al, RGO: *Active Galactic Nuclei.*

1991: Webb (RGO), Rebolo (IAC) et al: *Abundance Measurements as tests of Big Bang Nucleosynthesis.*

1992: Tenorio-Tagle et al, IAC: *The Physical Parameters that Control Stellar Bursts*

1993: Kidger et al, IAC: *Monitoring campaign of the Blazar OJ287* and Mason et al, Mullard Space Science Laboratory: *The ROSAT International X-ray/Optical Survey.*

1994: Mason et al, Mullard Space Science Laboratory: *The ROSAT International X-ray/Optical Survey.*

1995: Miley et al, Leiden: *The Radio Universe at low flux Density levels*: *Followup of the Westerbok Northern Sky Survey*

Dr. E. Harlaftis, University of St. Andrews
(ehh@st-andrews.ac.uk)

2nd Hellenic Astronomical Conference Communications

From Dr. M. Dimitrijevic, Belgrade

My congratulations for the excellently organized 2nd Hellenic Astronomical Conference in Thessaloniki and thank you in the name of all Serbian astronomers for this wonderful meeting and for the possibility that 14 Serbian astronomers came there.

From Dr. M. Stavinschi, Bucurest

Now that we are back in Romania, we feel that we must write to thank you most warmly for all the kindness and hospitality shown to us in Thessaloniki. It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity of meeting the Greek colleagues and other astronomers from this part of Europe.

From Dr. B. Jovanovic, Novi Sad

I must confess that your 2nd Hellenic Astronomical Conference was the best one I attended to until today. The warm welcome in the railway station, the transport to the hotel, fantastic accommodation in the *Xenia-Helios* hotel by the sea, tasty food with first class service, the registration with no problems, the expert selection of invited scientists who held extremely interesting addresses on different areas of astronomy, well arranged sessions and distributed papers into them, very rational fitting of paper presentation and free time for discussions and friendship establishment, extraordinary welcome and closing dinners with picturesque serving, skillfully organized excursions, etc...

THE BARBANIS PRIZE

The undergraduate students Fiori-Anastasia Metallinou and Theodoros Nakos shared the *1995 Barbanis-Prize* during a solemn ceremony that took place at the Department of Physics of the University of Thessaloniki in November 1995. Anastasia (Sia) and Thodoris will be graduating soon. Their aim is to continue with post-graduate studies in Astronomy. The Council of HEL.A.S. wishes them a successful carreer in Astronomy.

Crete MHD Meeting Summary

Advanced Study Institute on Solar and Astrophysical MHD Flows
11 - 22 June 1995

A NATO Advanced Study Institute (ASI) on Solar and Astrophysical Magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) Flows was held from June 11 - 23, 1995 at the Fodele Beach Hotel and Conference Center, 25 km outside Heraklion, Crete, Greece.

It was attended by 150 scientists from 24 different nations, including Western and Eastern European countries, North and South America, Japan, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Czech and Slovak Republics and it was directed by Prof. K. Tsinganos.

The ASI focused on the similarities of the MHD approach in several key problems of solar and astrophysical flows, such as, Magnetoconvection and Dynamos, MHD Flows in Sunspots, Coronal Loops and Prominences, Coronal Mass Ejections and Coronal Heating, Solar and Stellar Wind-type Flows, Astrophysical Jets, Collimated Outflows from Young Stellar Objects, Flows Associated with Symbiotic Stars, Accretion-Ejection Flows from Active Galactic Nuclei, and Flows in the Interstellar Medium.

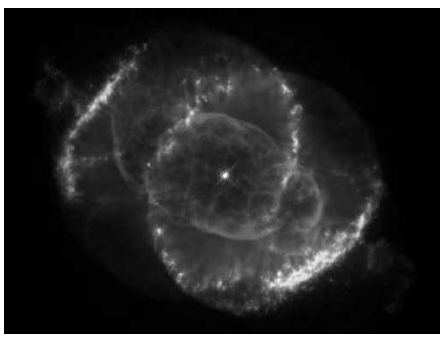
Astrophysicists became more aware and interested of problems and methods employed by solar plasma researchers and vice versa, several new ideas for modeling new observations naturally emerged as a result of the excellent review lectures, while new collaborations started at the ASI. At the same time, spectacular new observations by the Hubble Space Telescope of accretion discs and jets, impressive resolution pictures of the Sun in X-rays by the Yohkho satellite and the solar wind by Ulysses, as well as observations from several ground based optical and radio telescopes presented by established observational plasma astrophysicists attracted the attention of the local and national news media which provided extensive coverage of the ASI.

At the Institute a workshop was dedicated to the interests of the founder of this field of research Prof. E.N. Parker who planned to retire shortly after the ASI. In this conference reviews were presented on topics Parker has immensely contributed, as new developments in the Parker instability in the interstellar medium, the Parker formation of current sheets in magnetized plasmas, new developments in magnetic reconnection, sunspot models and also a generalization of the Parker model of the solar wind via exact self-similar solutions of the MHD equations.

The social program included slide presentations on the history of Crete including the Minoan and Byzantine times and visits to the Knossos palace and the archaeological museums.

The more than 60 posters and short contributions (most of them reporting first-class results) will be published in a special edition of the journal Astrophysical Letters & Communications. The review lectures, edited by K. Tsinganos, will be published by Kluwer in a Volume containing 31 chapters dealing with flows of cosmic plasmas, from the interior of the Sun and the solar wind to jets of young stars and of the most distant AGN and quasars.

Kanaris Tsinganos
(tsingan@physics.uch.gr)



8th EUROPEAN MEETING ON SOLAR PHYSICS

Solar & Heliospheric Plasma Physics
13 - 18 May 1996 Thessaloniki

Regular triennial meetings are organized by the board of the Solar Physics Section of the European Physical Society and the European Astronomical Society.

The 8th European Meeting on Solar Physics will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece and will cover a variety of issues, from the solar interior to the heliosphere and cosmic rays. Particular emphasis will be given to the Ulysses results. Invited talks, oral presentations and posters will cover most of the research activity in solar and space physics. Young scientists and PhD students are encouraged to attend and present their research work. The meeting is sponsored by the University of Thessaloniki, the University of Ioannina, the Greek General Secretariat of Research and Technology, the Greek National Committee for Astronomy, the Hellenic Astronomical Society, the European Physical Society, the European Astronomical Society and the European Space Agency.

For more information, please contact:

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(CONFERENCE)

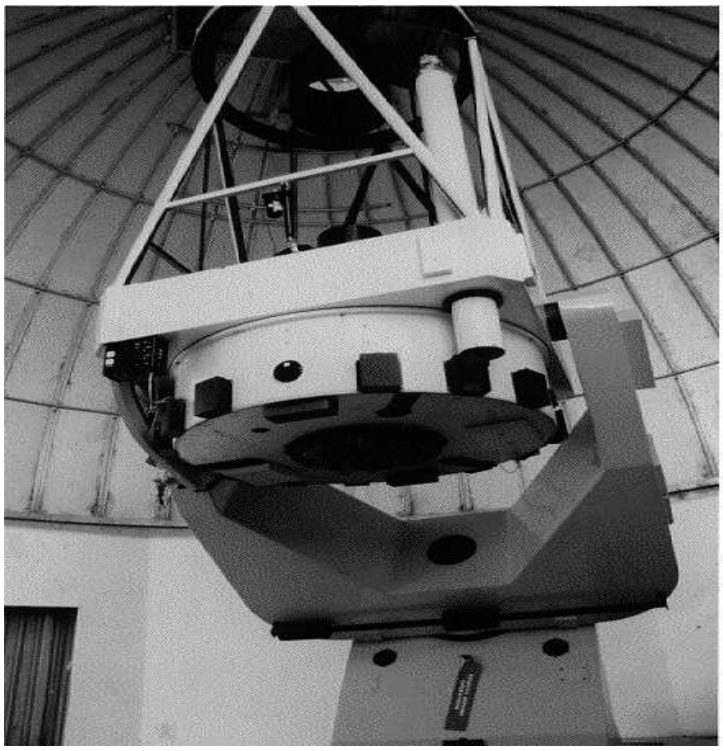
views and summarized results. J.C.B. Papaloizou: "*Angular momentum transport mechanisms in accretion disks*", K.D. Papadopoulos: "*The new face of lightning: Optical flashes, gamma and radio bursts above the clouds*", D. Kazanas: "*Alternatives to dark matter*", R. Wielebinski: "*Radio astronomy research in Europe*", H. Elsaesser: "*European optical Astronomy*", G. Nicolis: "*Physics of complex systems: Progress report*". Individual contributions provided the most recent results in these fields.

The *Welcome Drink* of the Conference, offered by the Mayor of Perea, Antonis Mantzaris, was more than a surprise to the participants as it turned out to include, besides a selection of good greek wines, a full buffet, including *souvlaki-flambe a*nd a variety of delicacies. During the rich *Conference Dinner,* the *Dancing Ensemble* of the local Cultural Society performed a variety of traditional greek dances. Finally the participants enjoyed a tour to the Museum of Thessaloniki (the *Vergina Exhibition*) and the cave of *Petralona* with its prehistoric (~150 000 B.C.) findings and an afternoon visit to a sea resort in Chalkidiki.

Besides the *Scientific Committee* (under Professor L.N. Mavridis) and the *Local Organizing Committee* (under Professor Hadjidemetriou) many people worked hard before and throughout the conference. In particular, several students of the University of Thessaloniki successfully manned the registration desk. Still, the work of the organizers of the Conference has not ended yet. This will happen when the Proceedings of the Conference are published, hopefully within the very near future.

J.H. Seiradakis

The Skinakas Observatory



The 1.3 m Ritchey-Cretien telescope of the Skinakas Observatory

In October 21, 1995, during a well attended ceremony, the 1.3 m telescope of the *Skinakas Observatory* (h= 1750 m) was inaugurated by the General Secretary of Research and Development, N. Christodoulakis, and the Undersecretary of Research, Technology and Education of Germany, K. Yzer.

The *Skinakas Observatory*, was established and is operated under the research collaboration between the *Foundation of Research and Technology* and the *University of Crete* and the *Max-Planck-Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics* of Germany (Prof. G. Hearendel).

The diameter of the primary mirror of the telescope is 1.29 m and its focal ratio is F7.7. In order to minimize the effects of the local *seeing* (which is due to the building structure and the telescope itself), the building is made out of steel with exhaust openings at the base of the dome. The primary mirror is also cooled. Both the telescope and the dome are computer controlled.

The observations are recorded on a CCD camera (Thomson chip 1024x1024 pixels). A *focal reducer,* which will allow direct observations of 13x13 arcmin fields-of-view on the CCD, a high accuracy, fully automated *guiding system* and an Echelle type, high resolution *spectrograph* are under construction. The telescope will eventually be equipped with *adaptive optics (Tip Tilt Correction)* for partial correction of the atmospheric seeing and an *infrared camera.*

Research collaborations with astronomers from other institutions are welcome. Please contact:

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with well documented research proposals.

John Papamastorakis

JENAM-97 in Thessaloniki

Following the success of the 2nd Hellenic Astronomical Conference, which took place in Thessaloniki in June 1995, the Council of HEL.A.S. is looking forward to the next Hellenic Conference in 1997.

During the 2nd Hellenic Astronomical Conference in 1995 HEL.A.S. established tight bonds with our colleagues of the Balkan countries. In the forthcoming 3rd Hellenic Astronomical Conference in 1997 we shall be extending these bonds to include astronomers from all over Europe or even the world!

The nomination of Thessaloniki as the *Cultural Capital of Europe* for the year 1997, offers a very nice opportunity for the organization of a *Joint European and National Astronomical Meeting* (JENAM) within the frame of the events of the *European Cultural Capital.* The idea of the organization of such a Meeting, in association with the *European Astronomical Society,* matured soon after the 2nd Hellenic Conference closed its gates. Within the next few days the relevant proposal was submitted to the Directorate of the Organization "*Thessaloniki Cultural Capital of Europe, 1997"* and was well accepted. Meanwhile, during the JENAM-95 Meeting in Catania last September, the *HEL.A.S.* delegate, Dr. E. Kontizas, handed to the *EAS* President Prof. P. Murdin the written proposal of the *HEL.A.S.* President Prof. G. Contopoulos for the organization of the JENAM-97 Meeiting in Thessaloniki. The proposal was accepted so the 3rd Hellenic Astronomical Conference will be held jointly with the 6th EAS General Assembly in the summer of 1997 in Thessaloniki.

M.E.Contadakis

Meetings of Interest to HEL.A.S. Members

PAST METINGS

11-22 June 1995: NATO Advanced Study Institute "*Solar and Astrophysical Magnetohydrodynamics*", Iraklion, Greece (Organizer: Kanaris Tsinganos, University of Crete, Dept. of Physics, 71409 Heraklion, Greece)

29 June - 1 July 1995: "*2nd Hellenic Astronomical Conference",* Thessaloniki, Greece (Organizer: Hellenic Astronomical Society, E-mail: elaset@astro.auth.gr))

17-28 July 1995: 3rd Hellenic Conference on "*Complexity*", Xanthi-Alexandroupolis, Greece (Organizer: A. Bountis, University of Patras, Department of Mathematics, Patras, Greece)

FUTURE MEETINGS

11-17 February 1996: *Dynamics of gravitational systems*, Aussois, France. (Contact: C. Froeschle, Observatoire de Nice, 06003, Nice, France. E-mail: claude@rameau.obs-nice.fr)

10-15 March 1996: *The Galactic Center* (ESO-CTIO Workshop), ESO Chile. Contact: Roland Gredel and Jorge Melnick, ESO Casilla 19001 Santiago 19, Chile. E-mail: mjelnick@eso.org)

17-23 March 1996: von Humboldt Colloquium: *The dynamical behaviour of the planetary system*, Ramsau, Austria. Contact: R. Dvorak, Vienna Observatory, Tuerkenschanzstr. 17, A-1180 Vienna, Austria. E-mail: dvorak@astro.ast.univie.ac.at)

25-30 March 1996: *Galaxies: interactions and induced star formations*. Les Diablerets, Switzerland. Lecturers: J.E. Barnes, R.C. Kennicutt, F. Schweizer. (Contact: SSAA Advanced Course 1996, Geneva Observatory, CH-1290 Sauverny, Switzerland. Fax: +41 22 755 3983)

4-7 April 1996: 7th Hellenic Conference in Physics and 6th Joint Greek-Cypriot Physics Meeting, Heraklion, Crete. (Contact: Greek Physical Union, Gribaion 6, GR-10680 Athens. E-mail: eef@di.uoa.gr Fax: +30 1 3610690)

13-18 May 1996: *8th. European Meeting on Solar Physics,* Thessaloniki, Greece. (Contact: L. Vlahos, University of Thessaloniki, Dept. of Physics, GR-54006, Thessaloniki, Greece. E-mail: spm-96 @astro.auth.gr. Tel: +30 31 998044. Fax: +30 31 995384)

20-24 May 1996: *Wide-Field Spectroscopy*, Athens, Greece. Contact: E. Kontizas, Astronomical Institute, National Observatory of Athens, P.O.Box 20048, Athens, Thission GR-118 10, Greece. E-mail: mkontiza@atlas.uoa.gr)

25 April -5 June 1996: *Cosmo Particle Physics*, Moscow, Russia. (Contact: Prof. Mzxim Yu. Kholopov. Fax: (007) (095) 9730360. E-mail: khlopov@khlopov.rc.ac.ru

9-12 June 1996: PEW Science Program "*Symposium on International Science Education"* (Contact: Y. Terzian, Cornell University, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy. Ithaca New York, E-mail: terzian@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu)

1-5 July 1996: IAU Colloquium No. 165: *Dynamics and Astrometry of Natural and Artificial Celestial Bodies*, Poznan, Poland. (Contact: Agnieszka Kryszczynska, Astronomical Observatory of A. Mickiewicz University, Pl-60-286 Poznan, Sloneczna 36. Fax: +48 61 536 536, E-mail: astro@phys.amu.edu.pl

8-12 July 1996: IAU Symposium 162: *New Trends in Teaching Astronomy*, University College London and the Oprn University. Contact; Dr. D. McNally, Univerisity of London Observatory, Mill Hill Park, London Nw7 2QS. Tel: 44-(0)-181-0421. Fax: 44-(0)-181-906-4161

31 July - 3 August 1996: *Undergraduate Physics Education*, College Park, MD. Contact: E-mail: inted@physics.umd.edu