

The 1st Prizes

The 18 national winners of the 1st prizes will be invited to spend two weeks at ESO during the second half of November 1993. They will participate in a specially conceived programme which will be the dream of any young astronomy fan: it includes "complete immersion" in a professional research environment, with the opportunity to travel to a remote observatory and to perform observations with one of the world's best astronomical telescopes. The participants will be part of a multinational group of young people sharing their interest for astronomy, but with very different backgrounds, thus providing plenty of opportunities for cultural enrichment. As far as the time permits, an interesting social programme will also be arranged.

The participants will first travel from their home countries to the ESO Headquarters in Garching near Munich (Germany). Here, they will receive preliminary instructions from professional European astronomers, which will enable them to prepare a real observational research programme in all details. Next, they will travel together to the ESO La Silla observatory in Chile, where they will perform real astronomical observations with a major telescope, under the guidance of ESO astronomers. The observations will be reduced, interpreted and prepared for publication. The participants will therefore experience the entire scientific process, from the conception of a programme to the results of the observations.

This unique event will be given full media coverage in the form of associated press conferences before and after the trip to South America.

How to Participate in the Essay Contest

More complete information about this essay contest and participation forms

Change of Editor

Dear readers:

This will be the last issue of *The Messenger* prepared under my editorship. Beginning with the September 1993 issue, *Marie-Hélène Ulrich*, ESO staff astronomer, will take over and from now on, all related correspondence should be directed to her (email: mulrich@eso.org; Internet).

The ESO Director General has kindly agreed to relieve me from this most interesting, but time-consuming job because of my other duties at ESO, in particular as Secretary to the ESO C&EE Programme.

I take this opportunity to thank most cordially all contributors to the Messenger issues during the past years. It has been an exciting and very rewarding experience to have been so closely involved in spreading the word about the numerous activities in and around ESO.

Please continue to give the same friendly and efficient support to my successor; I am sure that she will in return provide you with a most efficient vehicle to let the world learn about your achievements.

Throughout my two terms as Messenger Editor (1976–1979 and 1986–1993), I have always enjoyed to work with the Technical Editor, *Kurt Kjär*. I am happy that he will continue to put all of his long and irreplaceable experience into the timely and efficient preparation of each issue. I am extremely thankful for his friendly and competent help and also his willingness to work long hours whenever needed in order to bring out a new Messenger issue in time. If you have liked reading this journal over the years, and if you have had difficulties in finding more than a few errors, it is above all due to his devotion. *R. M. WEST*

will be available from the national committees in late July 1993. Information packages will be made available to all

secondary schools in the mentioned countries.

ESO Exhibition in Florence

As any visitor will testify, Italy is the land of contrasts, of a striking, yet harmonious cohabitation of breathtaking masterpieces of art from many epochs, be it paintings, music or architecture – and similar expressions of ultramodern life.

This was not different when on March 27, ESO's travelling exhibition opened its doors at the Sala D'Arme of the 14th Century Palazzo Vecchio, one of the

most prestigious locations for exhibitions in Florence.

On this Saturday morning, about 200 guests attended the inauguration ceremony, held at the magnificent Salone



Figure 1: *Palazzo Vecchio (the Old Palace), the site of the ESO exhibition in Florence.*

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The Third CTIO/ESO Workshop

"The Local Group: Comparative and Global Properties"

will be held in La Serena, Chile, from January 24 to 28, 1994.

Further information can be obtained from the following addresses:

e-mail (Internet): lggroup@ctios3.ctio.noao.edu

FAX: +56051 205342

mail: CTIO/ESO Workshop, CTIO, Casilla 603, La Serena, Chile



Figure 2: There were many guests at the opening.

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

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.

"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.