

with a scaled 'cluster count' = 13.0. For two systems without measured redshift our identifications were done on a positional basis.

An extensive discussion is given in the book on the selection effects and completeness. Various sub-samples were drawn from the total sample. Flags were defined to label these various samples.

In Table 1 we list the distribution over morphological types of the various samples, together with the number of available redshifts. In total, redshifts of 3576 galaxies, acquired from the literature, are present in the data base.

In summary, the resulting data bases include:

- A catalogue with *photometric standards*, at least one per survey field.
- A table with the *plate characteristics* of all 407 B and 407 R survey plates.

- A set of 28,218 B or R *images* with calibrated surface brightness and resident in FITS format on a set of two ESO optical disks, ready for direct access and display.

- A table with many *photometric parameters* – e.g., magnitudes, colours, dimensions, profile shapes and also including several environmental parameters.

This table is now available in several forms:

- An abstract in *printed version in the book*.
- An abstract in the *IDM data base computer at ESO*.

– The full table in *MIDAS table* format, resident on the ESO VAX computers, and also available on magnetic tape both in FITS format and in MIDAS table format.

We are now preparing some scientific papers describing the interesting statistical properties of the galaxy parameters. This will include also a discussion on the fundamental properties of early-type galaxies (bulge to disk ratios, isophotal twists in relation to the environmental conditions) and the role of central surface brightness in relation to morphological type, scale length and formation scenarios for late-type galaxies. A new Galactic extinction model for the Southern hemisphere, based on our own data, is also in preparation.

Copies of the book "The Surface Photometry Catalogue of the ESO-Uppsala Galaxies" by Andris Lauberts and Edwin A. Valentijn are available for sale at the European Southern Observatory. The price of the volume is DM 50,–.

Also, some copies are still available of "The ESO Uppsala Survey of the ESO(B) Atlas" at a price of DM 40,–.

Orders should be accompanied by pre-payment and directed to the European Southern Observatory, Information Service, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2, D-8046 Garching bei München, FRG.

Copies of the magnetic tape may be ordered from the Centre de Données Stellaires, 11, rue de l'Université, F-67000 Strasbourg.

References

Abell, G.O., Corwin, H.G., Olowin, R.P.: 1989, submitted to *Astrophys. J. Suppl.*
 Corwin, H.G., de Vaucouleurs, A., de Vaucouleurs, G.: 1985, *Southern Galaxy Catalogue* = SGC (Univ. Texas Press, Austin).
 Lauberts, A.: 1982, *The ESO/Uppsala Survey of the ESO(B) Atlas*, European Southern Observatory.
 Lauberts, A., Valentijn, E.A.: 1983, *The Messenger* 34, 10.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

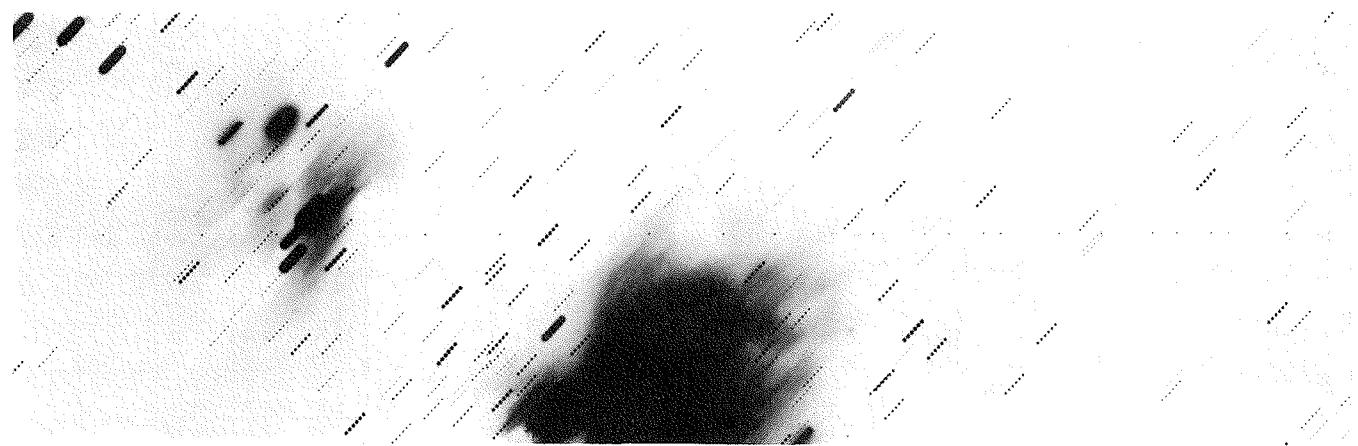
Arrivals

Europe:
 BERNOTAT, Petra (D), Secretary
 JANSSENS, Lucas (B), Building Project Engineer
 KÄUFL, Hans Ulrich (D), Infrared Instrument Scientist
 MICELI, Donatella (I), Receptionist
 PRUGNIEL, Philippe (F), Fellow
 WALSH, Jeremy (GB), Fellow (Scientific Instrument Information Scientist ST-ECF)
 WENDORFF, Karl-Heinz (DK), VLT Project Civil Engineer

Departures

Europe:
 SANSONE, Carlo (I), Remote Control Operator

Another "Flashing" Object!



On a multi-exposure GPO-plate, taken in Orion on January 2, 1989, at UT $1^{\text{h}}18^{\text{m}}-2^{\text{h}}23^{\text{m}}$, as part of a flare star project (Aniol et al., 1988, *The Messenger* 52, 39), an unusual flashing object was found. Along the apparent path, 37 flashes are seen above plate limit ($m_p = 17.2$). The brightest ones have $m_p = 13.3$. The flashes belong to two overlapping long cycles. These in turn probably consist of seven short cycles with 3 flashes each, at times 43.6%, 33.2%, 23.2% of the total cycle time from the last flash of the previous cycle and from each other, respectively. In the second long cycle (assuming the object to enter from the west) the flash intervals occur in reverse order from the first cycle.

The intricate pattern of the flashes suggests an active source on a satellite or a reflected pulsed laser beam used in satellite tracking. A high flying plane can be ruled out on the basis of signal strengths and cycle times. The pattern was easily detected because all stars show multiple images, but it is doubtful that it would have been recognized on a single exposure plate. Several "new variables" might have been discovered instead.

The message is: the sky is getting dangerously polluted!

M. K. TSVETKOV, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, F. R. Germany