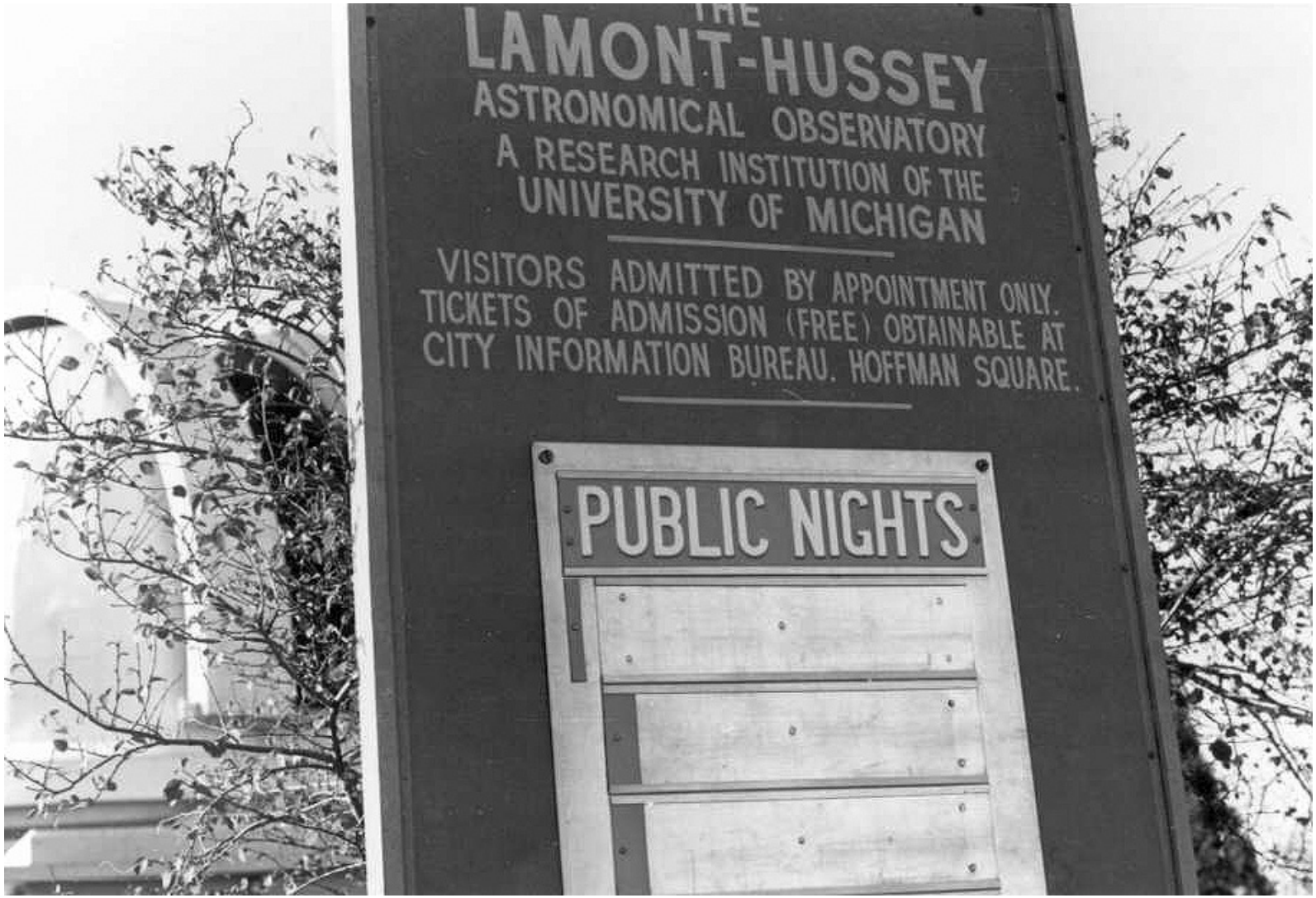
A Brief History of the Lamont-Hussey Observatory

Dr. Patrick Seitzer
Dept of Astronomy
University of Michigan

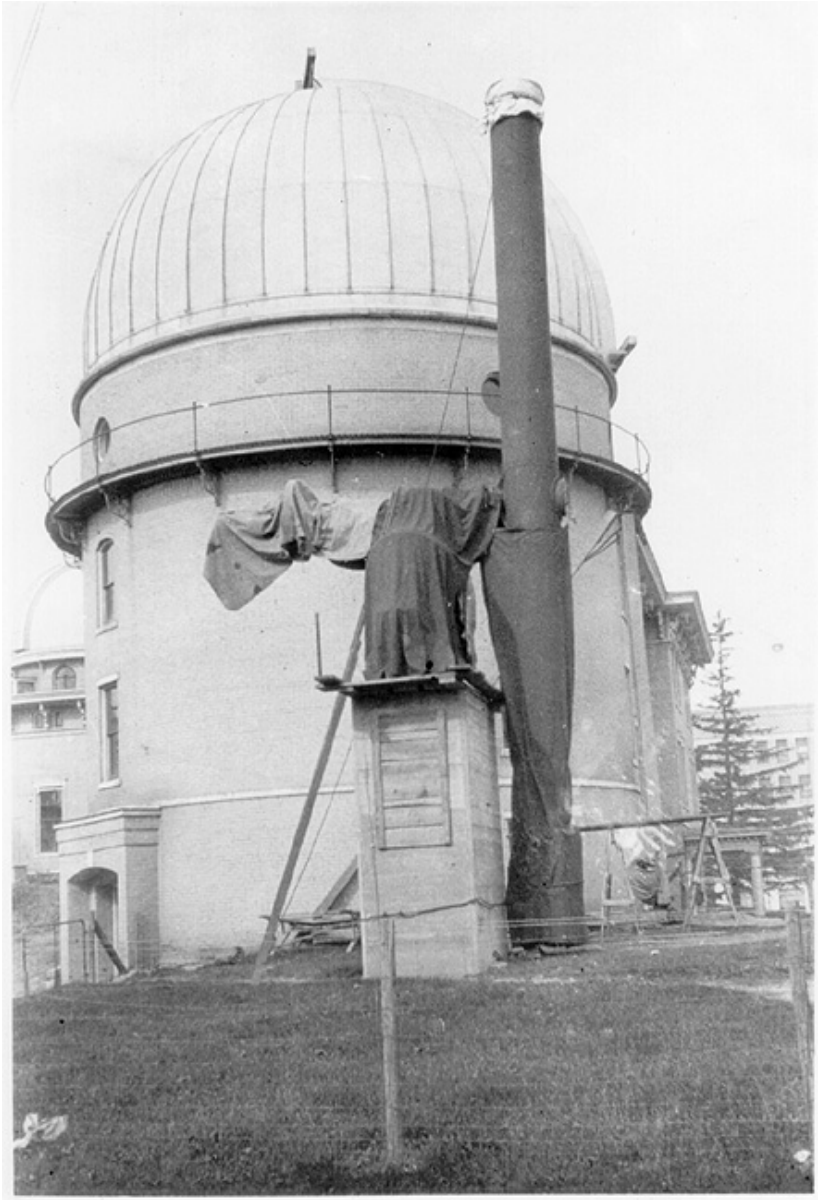


Frank Holden Collection

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Observatory founded 1854, here circa 1915

Bentley Historical Library – Univ of Michigan

Ann Arbor
Summer
1925



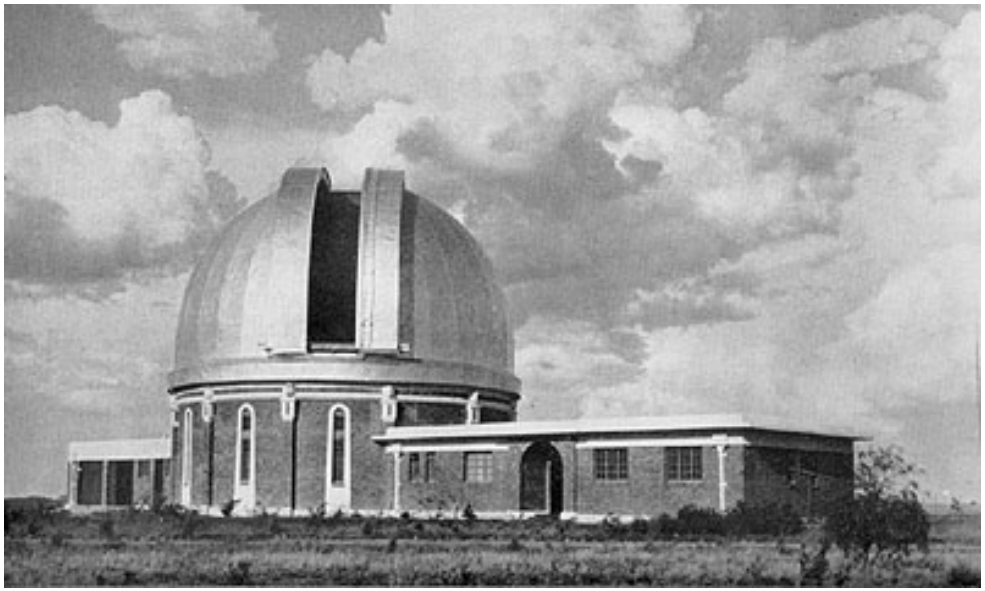
Bentley Historical Library – Univ of Michigan

Bentley Historical Library – Univ of Michigan

Naval Hill, Bloemfontein - late 1927

Bentley Historical Library – Univ of Michigan

The Lamont-Hussey Observatory of the University of Michigan

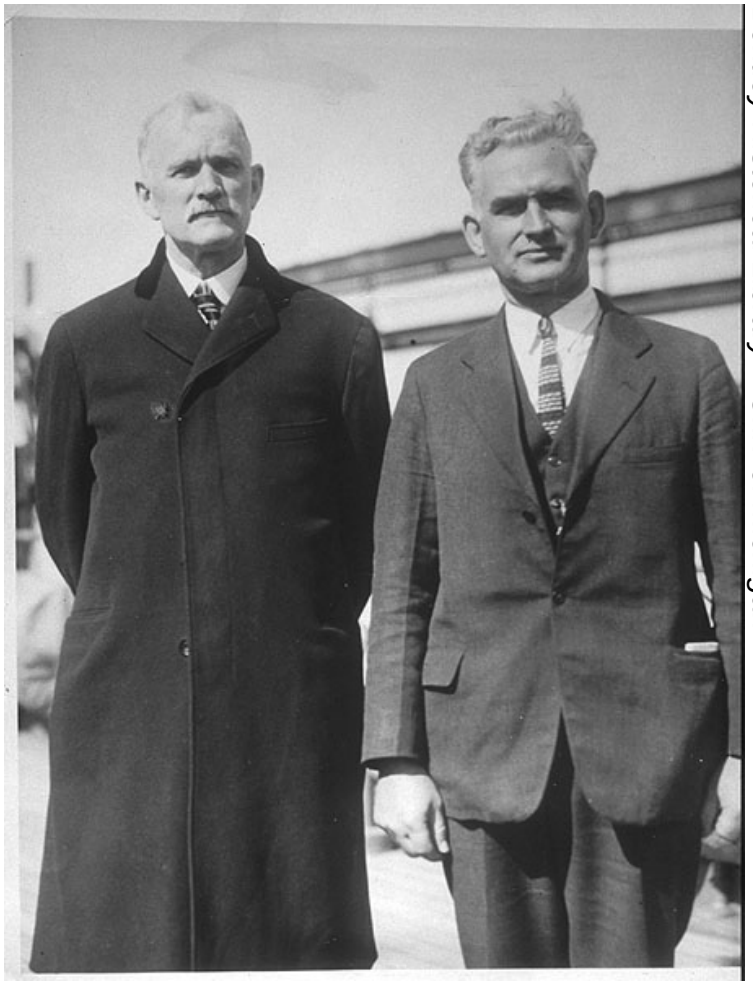


1928 - 1971

Bentley Historical Library – Univ of Michigan

The Founders

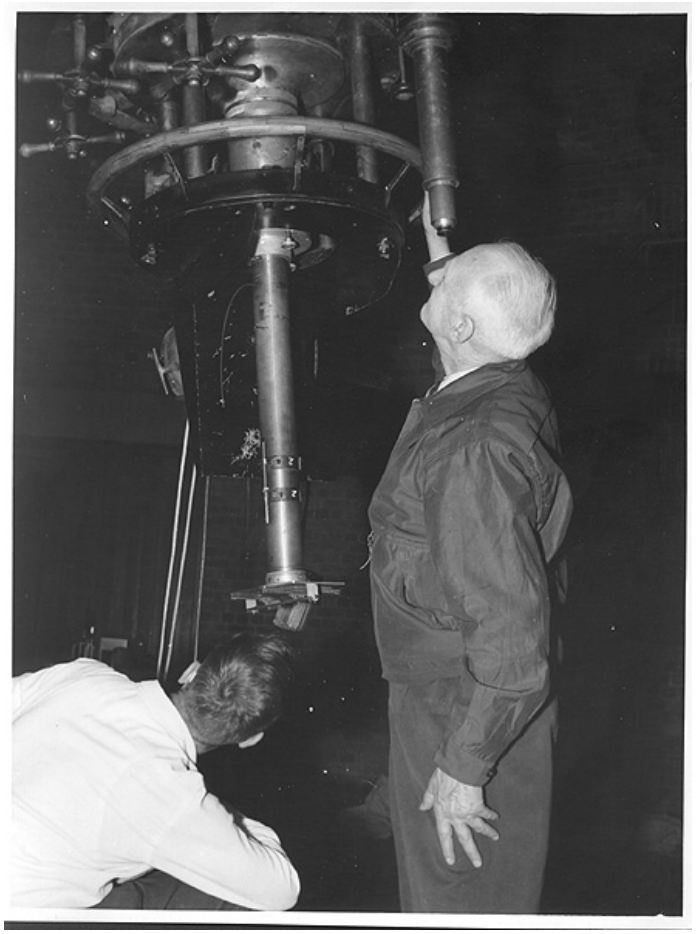
William J. Hussey



Bentley Historical Library – Univ of Michigan

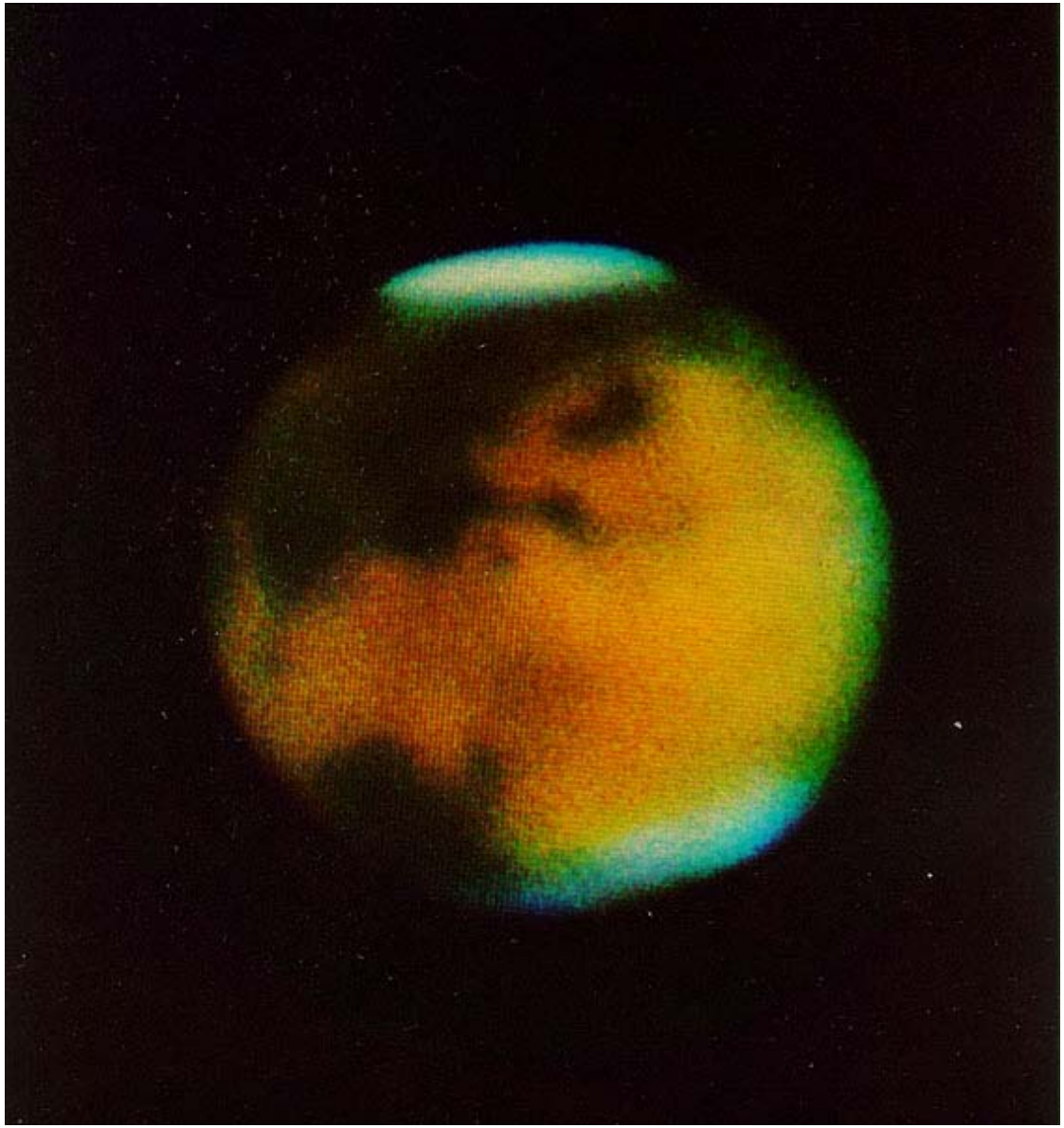
Richard A. Rossiter

LowelL Observatory Mars Expeditions



Lowell Observatory

Mars
1954



Lowell Observatory

Karl Henize
University of Michigan graduate student
Resident at Lamont-Hussey 1948-1951
With 10-inch telescope.

Henize thesis – Bentley Historical library, Michigan

Henize thesis – Bentley Historical library, Michigan

NASA Astronaut

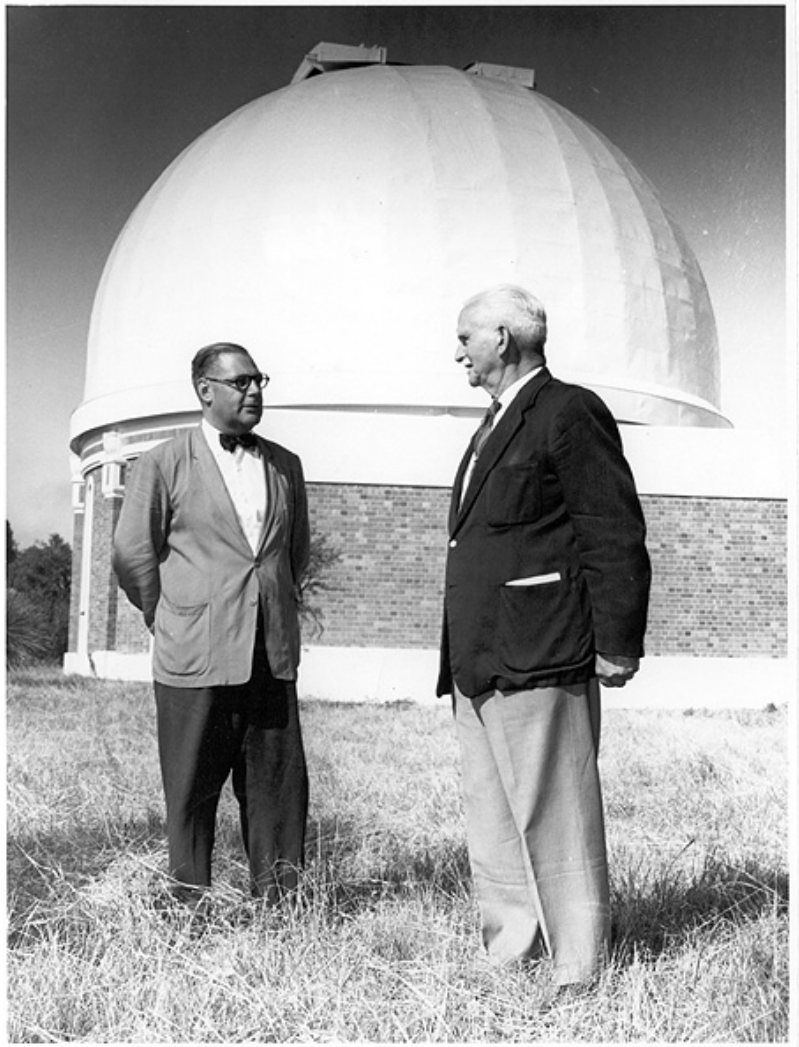
Flew on STS 51-F
July 1985

NASA

The Astronomers

Frank Holden

observed
1962-1971



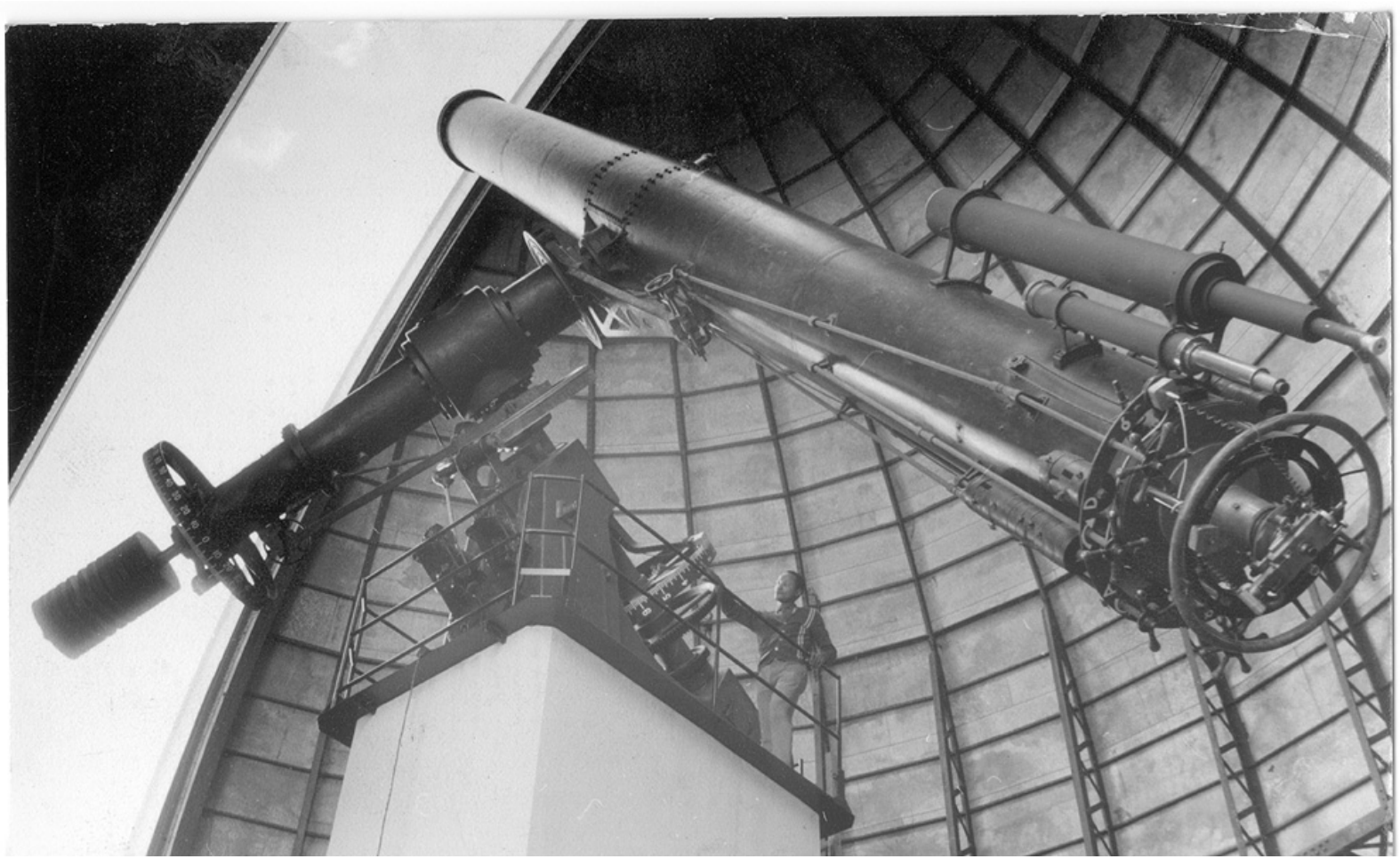
Frank Holden Collection

Richard Rossiter

observed

1928 - 1952

The Lamont 27-inch Refractor 1928 - 1975



Frank Holden Collection

Largest refracting telescope in the Southern Hemisphere

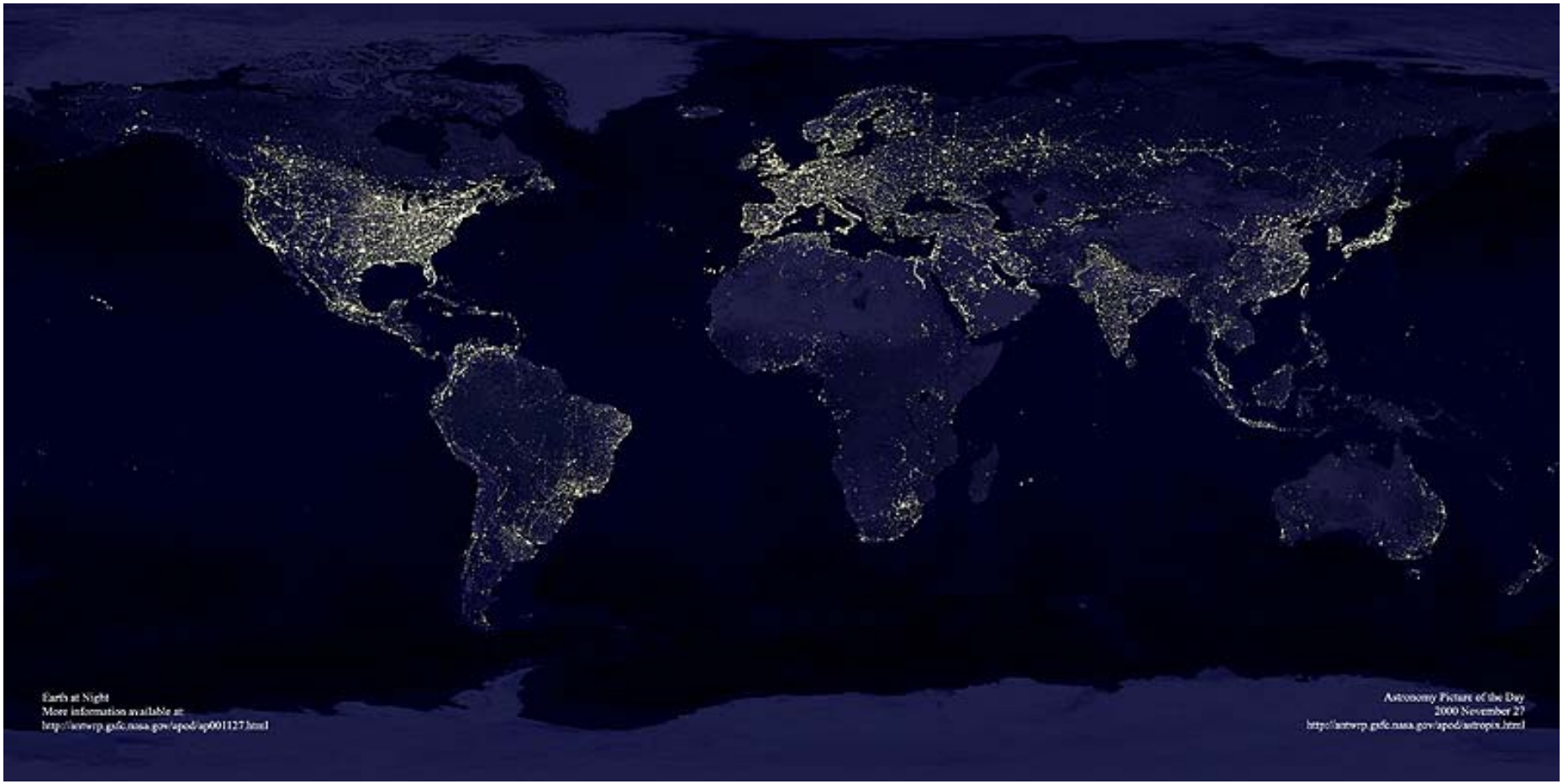
The Lamont Refractor 2006

Michigan

Bloemfontein

Saving our Night Sky

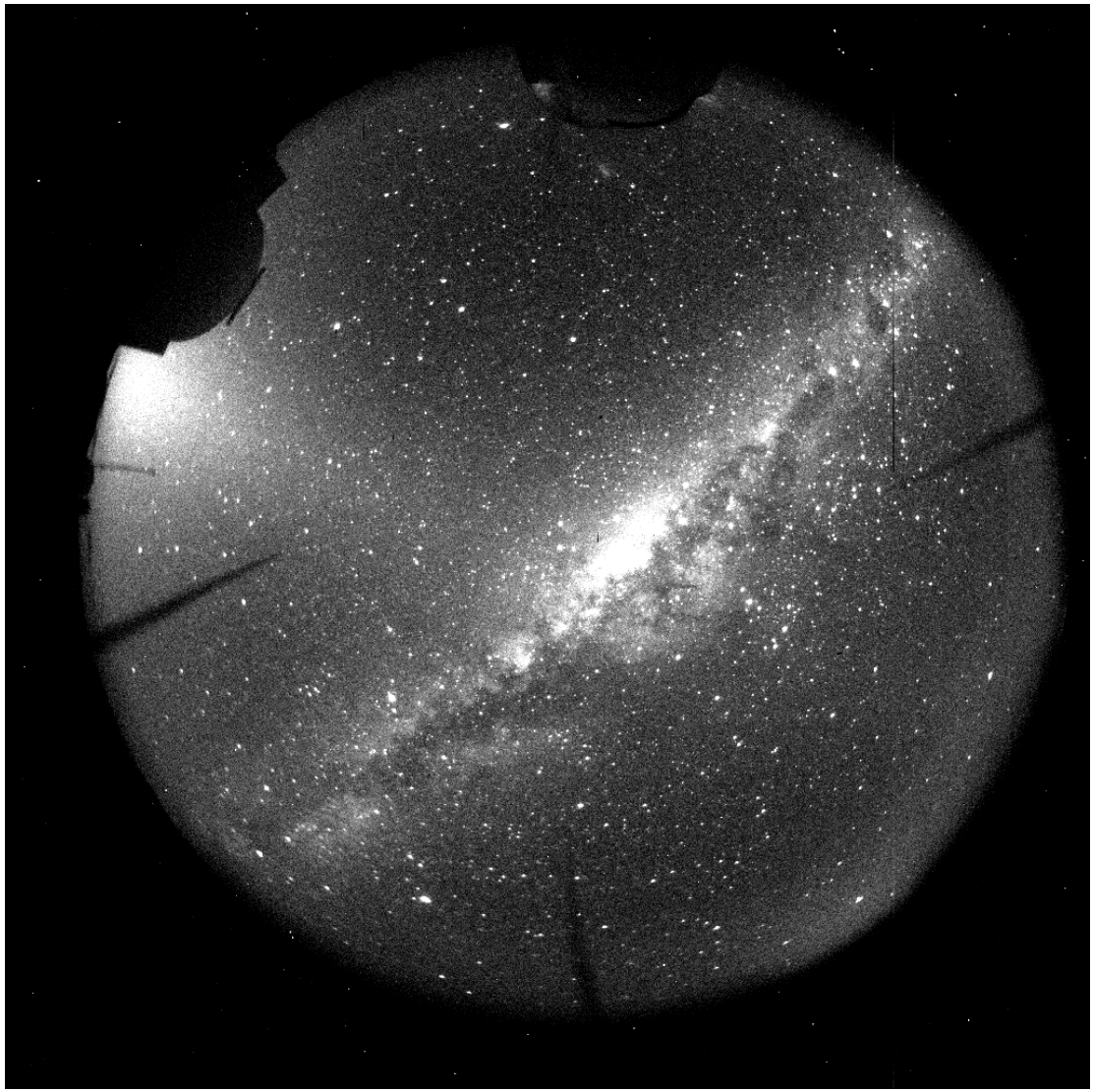
The Problem of Light Pollution

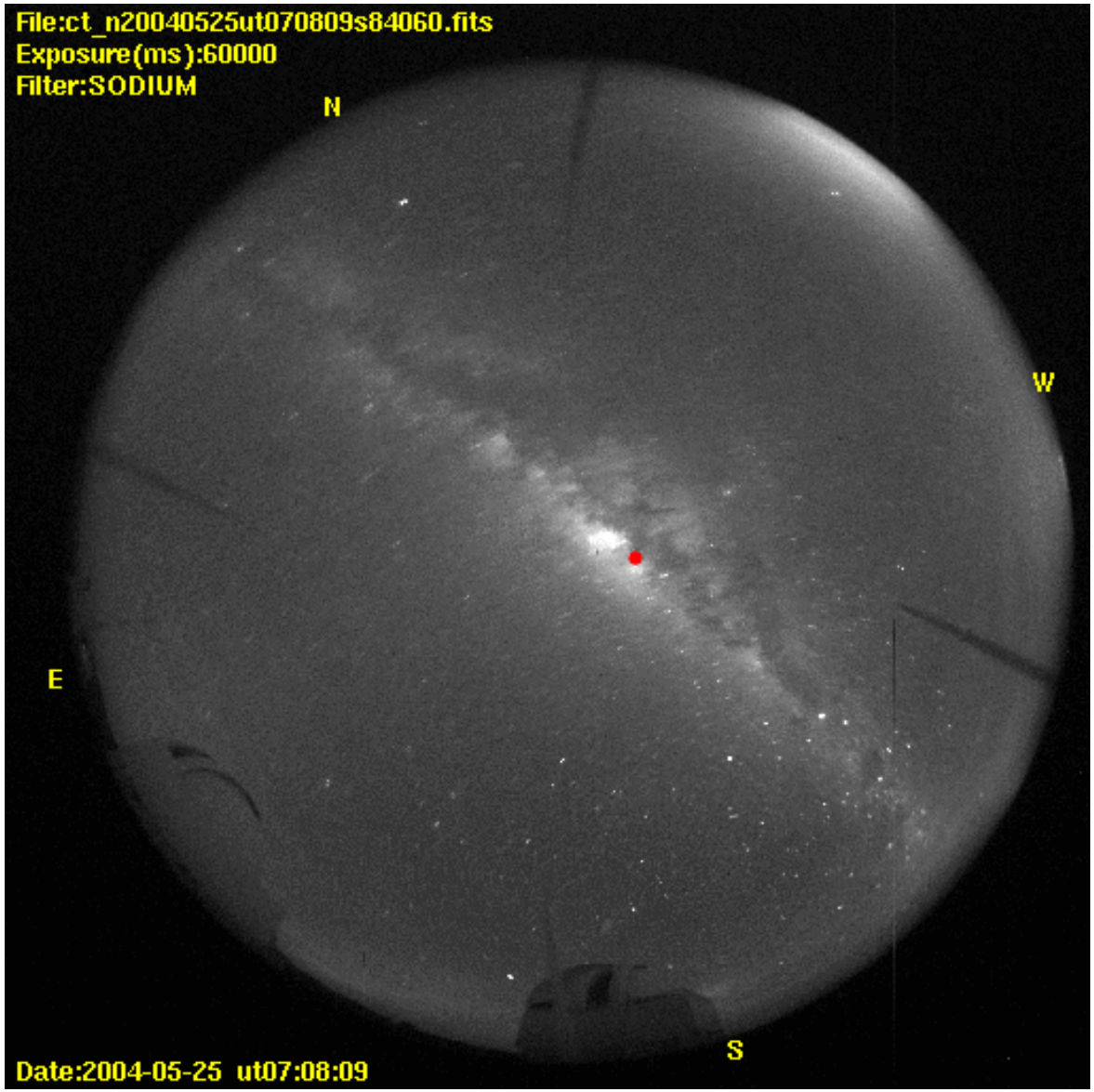

Earth at Night
More information available at:
Astronomy Picture of the Day
2000 November 27

How many stars?

- V = 7.0 7,000 stars visible
- V = 6.0 2,400 stars visible
- V = 5.0 800 stars visible
- V = 4.0 250 stars visible

Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory, Chile

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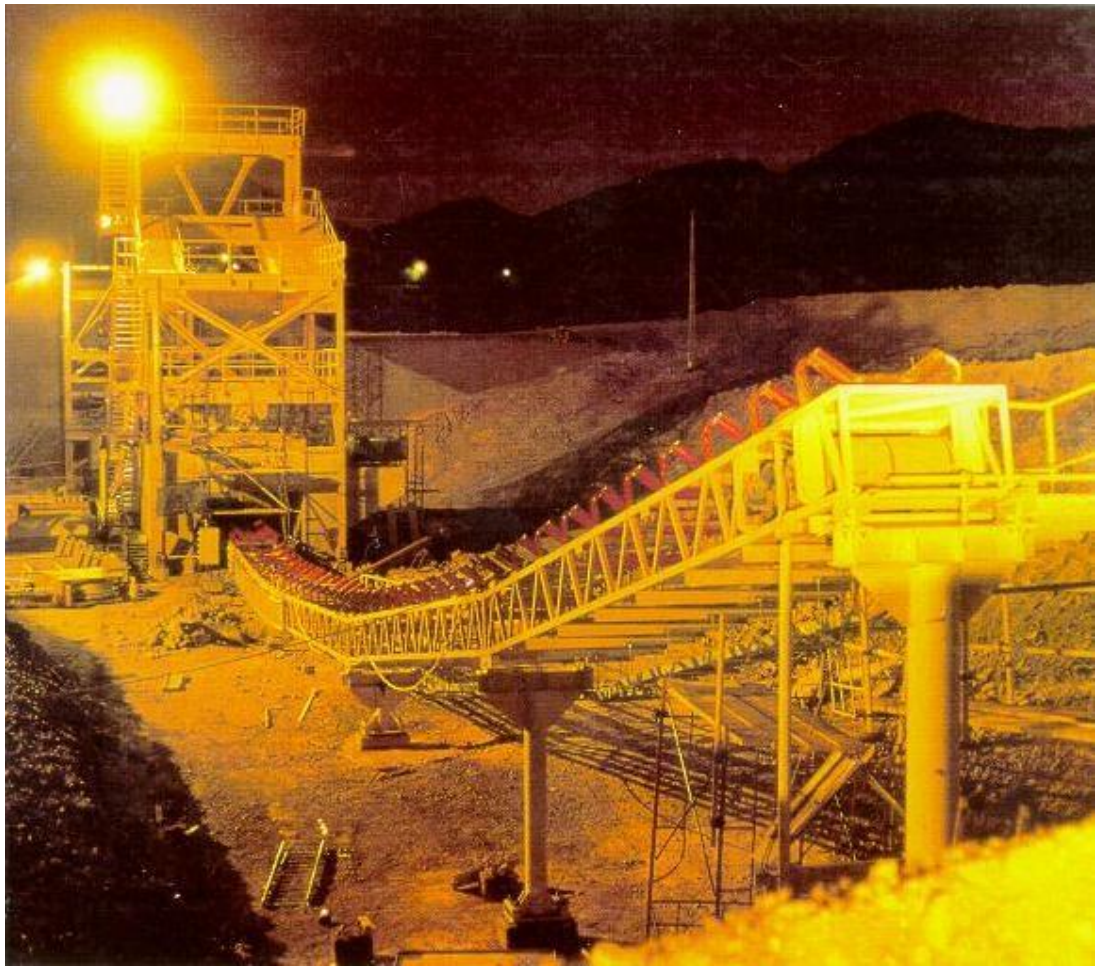

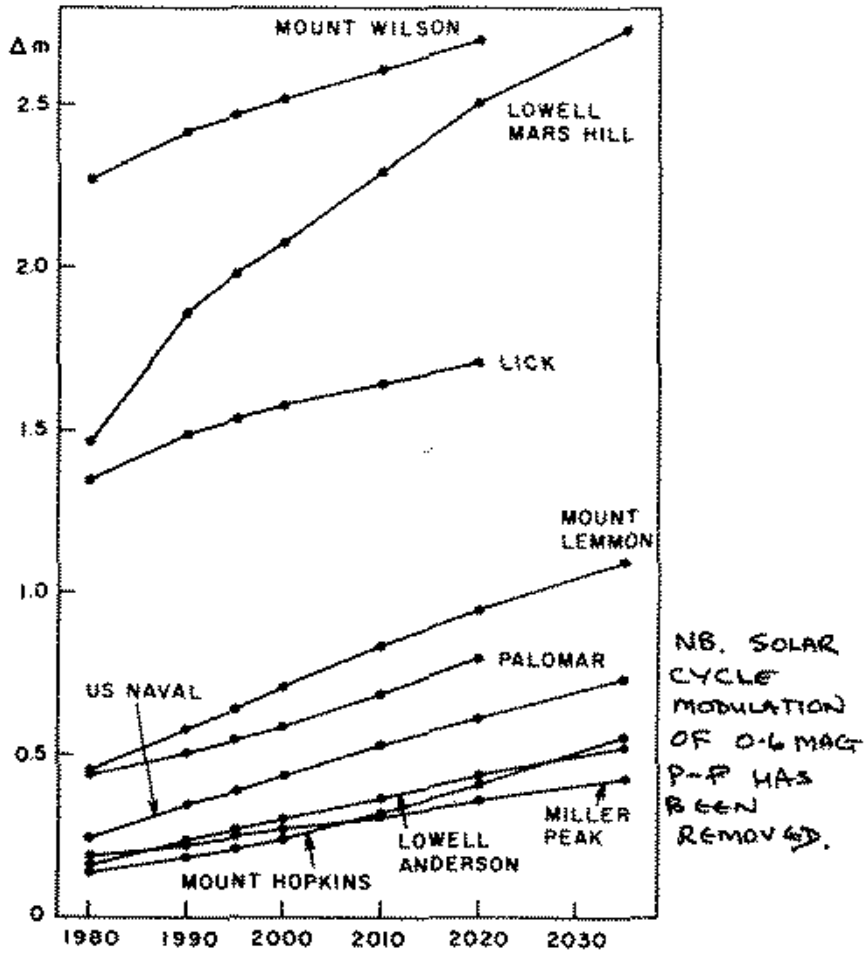

Figure 1 Predicted growth in man-made contributions to the night sky brightness. Δm is in V magnitudes per square arcsecond relative to the natural night sky background brightness at sunspot minimum.

Progress in Chile

- National lighting law
  - Covers type of light fixtures
  - When lights can be operated (curfew)
  - Significant progress on light pollution control in regions where observatories are
  - Good for astro-tourism!

What can you do?

- Educate the public - visits to Observatory

Planetarium show to simulate stars and light pollution

What can you do?

- Educate the public - visits to Observatory
- Emphasize benefits to the “Lighter” by controlling lights
  - Energy savings over long term
  - Better security through intelligent lighting
  - In your own lighting use best practices!

What can you do?

- International Dark Sky Association
  - www.darksky.org
  - Tremendous resource on light pollution and how to handle it
  - No South African chapter!
  - ASSA section dedicated to light pollution.

Save the Stars!