

The wind was strong and the "seeing" mediocre, which did not permit the study of the optical aberrations under the best conditions. However, it was possible to determine the position of the focus, that there was no large off-axis error, and also to verify that the tracking of the telescope was satisfactory.

The day crew, which had started work at 6:30 AM was still there at 4 o'clock in the morning, after almost 24 hours of continuous work.

At 4:30 AM everyone finally went down to the base camp to celebrate the event with a champagne toast (Californian) before going to sleep.

## The Last Twelve Months

The tasks of the past year have been concentrated on the reassembly of the telescope at the site and manufacturing of the nine instruments subcontracted to various observatories or astronomical institutes. The telescope arrived in the "Big Island" in the harbor of Kawaihae, on September 12, 1978, onboard the vessel "Lift-off", after a journey of 45 days from La Rochelle. The valuable cargo, 46 crates weighing almost 500 tons, was trucked up Mauna Kea, piece by piece, passing by the office of CFHT in Waimea to reach the summit usually the same night.

The reassembly started in November and most of the structure was in place at the beginning of March. The primary mirror arrived on the 15th of March from Victoria and was placed in the aluminizing room, where it took six weeks to bond the 24 radial pads around the mirror.

The first motion of the telescope took place on March 8. Many fine mechanical adjustments were necessary, in particular the position of the hydrostatic bearings was slightly modified during the tests.

An important problem in the control system of the telescope (destructive instability in the power amplifiers) was solved just before the first tests of the telescope with its mirror. The cabling of the telescope proved to be a much more difficult and longer task than expected.

The instruments ready at this date are the prime focus guiding head and the photographic equipment used at the prime focus.

The data acquisition system, composed of a Hewlett Packard 21 MX computer with 64,000, 16-bit words memory and CAMAC interface is now at the Corporation headquarters in Waimea. The system software is about 70% complete. Several instruments have reached the 75% level of completion: the faint object spectrograph, the infra-red photometer, the visible photometer, the Fourier transform spectrometer and the Cassegrain polarimeter.

The other instruments now under fabrication are the high dispersion coude spectrograph, the long slit cassegrain spectrograph, a focal reducer for the cassegrain focus, a photon-counting t.v. camera and Reticon and CCD camera.

### FLASHBACKS

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| August 78 | The telescope was onboard the "Lift-off", which left La Rochelle on the 28th of July.                                  |
| August 77 | Factory tests. Reinforcement of the telescope South beam because of heavy flexure. The dome at the site was completed. |
| August 76 | Shop assembly of the telescope, delayed by strikes in May and June.  |
| August 75 | Beginning of the construction of the telescope building on Mauna Kea.  |
| August 74 | Beginning of the realization; the first two contracts were signed in July and the Corporation created in June.         |

N.B.: This first bulletin is the reprint of the bulletin distributed in August 1979 at the General Assembly of the IAU in Montreal, with the exception of the informations concerning the request for observing time for the first semester of 1980 which is no longer of use and of the article on the commissioning of the focii which has been updated in the bulletin No. 2.

The Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Corporation (CFHT) is a joint organization of the National Research Council of Canada (NRC), the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique of France (CNRS), and the University of Hawaii (UH).

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