



Wintersemester 2012/13
Kolloquium zur Geschichte der
Naturwissenschaften, Mathematik und Technik



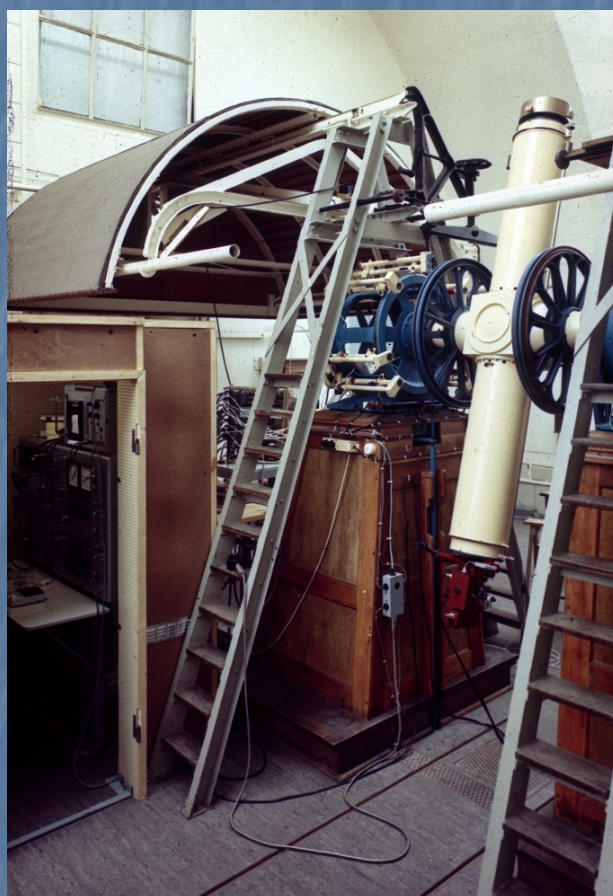
Hamburger Sternwarte, Besucherzentrum
Mittwoch 20 Uhr (ab 19 Uhr Café geöffnet)

30. Januar 2013

Dr. Erik Hoeg
(Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen University, Denmark)

Astrometry 1960-80: from Hamburg to Hipparcos

An astrometric experiment in Copenhagen in 1925 led to the Hipparcos and Gaia space astrometry missions. Astrophysicists need accurate positions, distances and motions of stars in order to understand the evolution of stars and the universe. Astrometry provides such information, but this old branch of astronomy was facing extinction during much of the 20th century in the competition with astrophysics. The direction forward was shown by observations at the Copenhagen Observatory in 1925 with a new technique: photoelectric astrometry. Digital techniques were introduced in photoelectric astrometry at the Hamburg Observatory in the 1960s by the present author. This development paved the way for space technology as pioneered in France and implemented in the European satellite Hipparcos approved in 1980.



The photoelectric Hamburg
meridian circle in 1966

Universität Hamburg, Zentrum für Geschichte der
Naturwissenschaft und Technik

Gudrun Wolfschmidt – Tel. 42838-5262

<http://www.hs.uni-hamburg.de/DE/GNT/kolloq/nfws1213.htm>