



INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
Commission 9 Working Group on Sky Surveys



CATALOGUE

OF

WIDE-FIELD PLATE ARCHIVES

Version 4.0 - August 2000



URL: <http://www.skyarchive.org>
Institute of Astronomy - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
72 Tsarigradsko Shosse Blvd., BG-1784, SOFIA, Bulgaria

CATALOGUE OF WIDE-FIELD PLATE ARCHIVES

The Catalogue of Wide-Field Plate Archives is prepared in the Institute of Astronomy at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences within the activities of the IAU Commission 9 Working Group on Wide-Field Imaging (WGWFI), founded in 1991 (now WG on Sky Surveys). The first version of the catalogue, called "List of Wide-Field Plate Archives" was published in Newsletter No. 2 of the WGWFI in 1992. It is based on information from the answers of two circular letters sent to more than 200 professional astronomical institutes and observatories. In difference from the list of photographic plate archives created by B. Hauck (1982, in *Automated Data Retrieval in Astronomy*, p. 217) and C. Jashek (1988, *Bull. Inform. CDS*, No. 34, p. 159; 1989, *ibid.*, No. 36, p. 123) the present catalogue contains data for the existing wide-field plate archives separately for each observational instrument (reflector, astrograph, camera, Schmidt telescope, etc.) of the listed observatories/institutes. The total sum of wide-field plates in the catalogued 345 archives is 2 096 146. As a rule, the archives of the telescopes with field size larger than 1 deg. are included in the catalogue.

The Catalogue of Wide-Field Plate Archives together with a Catalogue of Wide-Field Plates constitute the Wide-Field Plate Database (WFPDB, Tsvetkov et al. 1998, *Proc. of the IAU Symp. 179*, Ed. B. McLean et al., Kluwer, p.462). The WFPDB is installed in Sofia Sky Archive Data Center (SSADC) and in CDS-Strasbourg. Up to the present time the information for 117 wide-field plate archives with a total of 640 135 plates have been included or are in preparation to be included in the WFPDB. An on-line access to the WFPDB is possible via Vizier catalogue browser in CDS-Strasbourg at <http://vizier.u-strasbg.fr/cats/VI.htx> (catalogue number VI/90).

The Catalogue of Wide-Field Plate Archives was distributed during the ESO/OAT International Workshop "Handling and Archiving Data from Ground-Based Telescopes", Trieste, April 12-15, 1993; the IAU Symposium 161 "Astronomy from Wide-Field Imaging", Potsdam, August 23-27, 1993; the IAU Colloquium 148 "Future Utilization of the Schmidt Telescopes", Bandung, March 7-11, 1994; the XXIInd General Assembly of the IAU in the Hague, August 15-27, 1994; the 2nd Astronomical Conference of the Hellenic Astronomical Society, Thessaloniki, June 29 - July 1, 1995; JENAM'95 "Progress in European Astrophysics", Catania, September 25-29, 1995; the International Conference on Wide-Field Spectroscopy, Athens, May 20-24, 1996; the Colloquium "International Cooperation in Dissemination of the Astronomical Data", Pulkovo, July 2-9, 1996; the IAU Symposium 179 "New Horizons from Multiwavelength Sky Surveys", August 26-30, 1996, and the XXIIIrd General Assembly of the IAU in Kyoto, August 18-30, 1997. Since 1998 the Catalogue is accessible on-line at <http://www.skyarchive.org>.

The present version (4.0) is an updated and corrected version of the catalogue. The successive columns of the catalogue contain:

1. WFPDB instrument identifier (instrument code). Star symbol(s) next to the identifier show which plate catalogues are included so far in the WFPDB or are in preparation to be included: * - at disposal in SSADC, not yet converted in computer-readable form, ** - in preparation in SSADC, converted in computer-readable form, *** - included in the WFPDB and available on-line

- 2-3. Location of the plate archive: town (site), country
- 4-6. Observatory: name, site, country
7. Marsden's number of observatory (private communication)
8. Time zone
9. Observatory longitude (deg, min)
10. Observatory latitude (deg, min)
11. Observatory altitude (m)
12. Clear aperture of the telescope (m)
13. Diameter of telescope mirror (m)
14. Focal length of the telescope (m)
15. Plate scale (arcsec/mm)
16. Instrument type: Ast - astrograph, Cam - camera, FEC - fish eye camera, Men - meniscus, RCr - Ritchey-Chretien, Rfl - reflector, Rfr - refractor, Sch - Schmidt
17. Field angular dimension (deg)
- 18-19. Years of telescope operation (from - to)
20. Symbol "F" for "film", blank for "plate"
21. Number of direct plates
22. Form of the archive data for the plates: T - printed table form, C - computer-readable form, TC - in preparation in computer-readable form
23. Number of objective prism plates
24. Form of the archive data for the objective prism plates: same as for column 21
25. Quality of the plate archive: A - very good, B - good, D - distributed
26. Astronomer in charge

We would like to express our deep thanks to all astronomers who sent us the data for the plate archives. We hope that the use of this catalogue, as well as of the other data in the WFPDB will encourage other colleagues to start the preparation of plate logbooks in computer-readable form and will draw attention to the importance of archiving work in astronomy.

We would appreciate all remarks, comments and collaboration in order to make the present data for the astronomical community complete and accurate to the most.

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Sofia

Dr. Milcho Tsvetkov
Project Manager
E-mail: tsvetkov@skyarchive.org