

## Historical Excerpts

### *Astronomy in Bonn*

In Bonn academia began in 1818 with  
the foundation of the  
*Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universitaet*,  
*Bonn University*,  
by Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III.

Pavel Kroupa: MW Halo, Bonn May 29th - June 2nd 2007

## Friedrich Argelander

*1799* birth in Klaipeda (near Koenigsberg)

*since 1807* friend of the later king of Prussia  
(Friedrich Wilhelm IV) → funds in later times !

*1820 - 1822* : PhD student of Bessel in Koenigsberg (Kaliningrad)

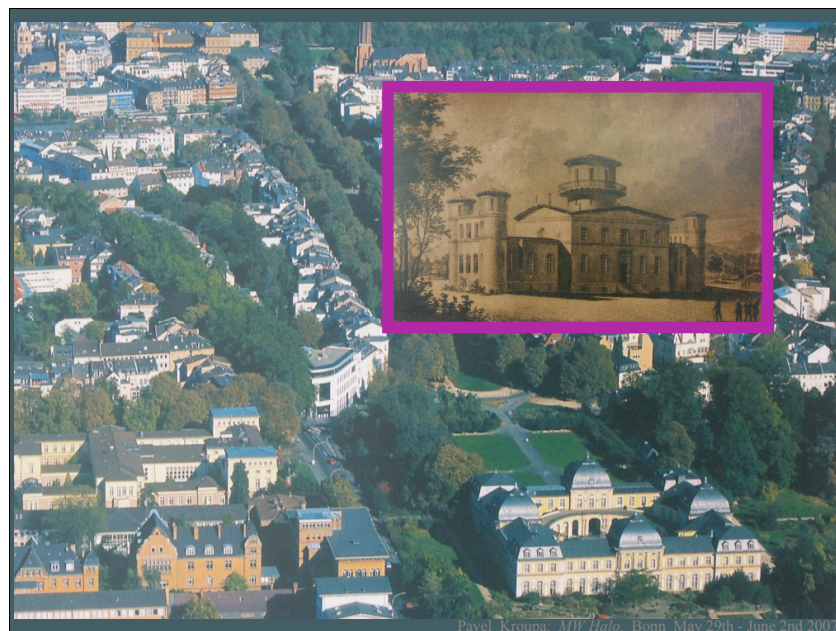
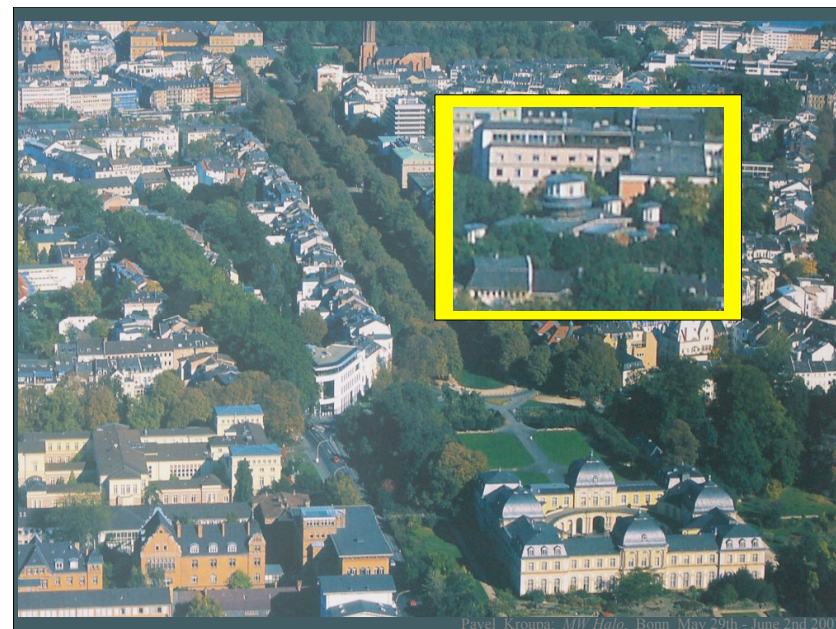
*1836* : Director of the Sternwarte in Bonn

*1850, 1864*: Rector of Bonn University

*1875* : Argelander deceases in the Sternwarte.

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At the *Sternwarte*, Argelander

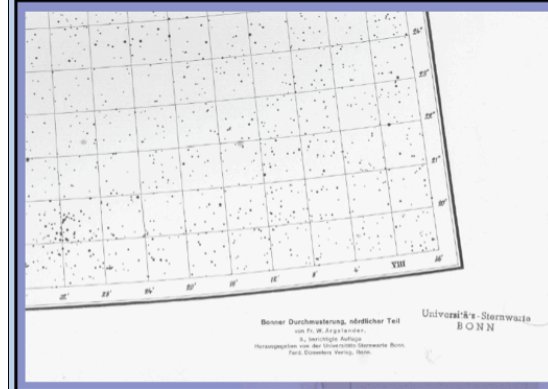
produced the *Bonner Durchmusterung*  
(e.g. the star BD+63 238) 1852 - 1863

He and his assistants measured the first positions and  
brightnesses of most of the 324198 brightest stars, and  
published the catalogue on 48 charts.

This was the first  
modern-age  
large-scale  
sky survey.

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## The “Bonner Durchmusterung” 1852-1859



BD catalogue

324198 stars

48 maps

Dec +90 to -2

extension to -23

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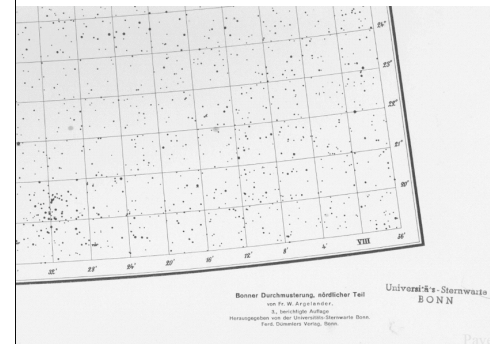
The “BD telescope”  
D=7.7cm, f=65cm

two observers

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## With the *Bonner Durchmusterung* (the Bonn Survey)

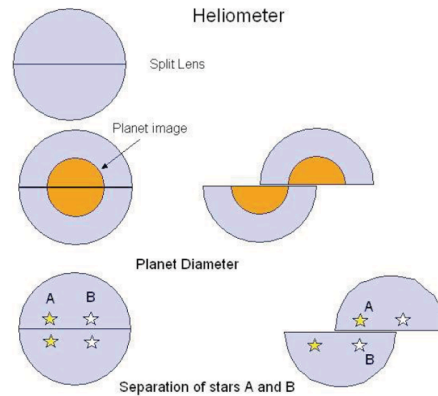
- it became possible to identify stars
- to search for comets and minor planets
- to find candidate nearby stars
- analyse statistics of the stars in the MW  
( → HRD ultimately)



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## At the *Sternwarte*, Argelander

and his team also measured distances to stars using the heliometer



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1818: foundation of *Bonn University*

1836 - 1875: foundation of the *Sternwarte* / **Argelander**

1891- 1922 : K.F. Kuestner = director : astrometry, star clusters, globular clusters

1947- 1960 : F.W. Becker : light pollution → transfer of telescopes to the Hoher List mountain

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Heliometer  
acquired 1842  
by Argelander

In 1870 of the  
13 parallaxes known:  
4 from the Bonner  
heliometer

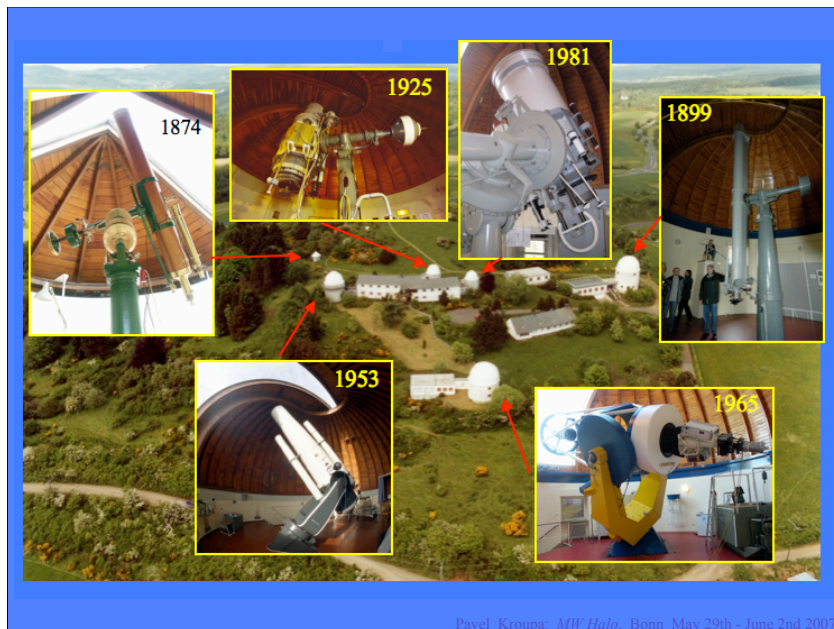


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pause

Marsch by Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

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- 1952: *Hoher List Observatory*
- 1962: *Institut fuer Radio Astronomie*
- 1964: *Institut fuer Astrophysik und Extraterrestrische Forschung*
- 1966: *MPIfR*
- 1973: All institutes move to Auf dem Huegel 71
- 1986- 2007: **Klaas de Boer** is director of the *Sternwarte*

Pavel Kroupa: *MW Halo*, Bonn May 29th - June 2nd 2007

This meeting has been organised to bring together the halo community, but also on occasion of the retirement of the last director of the *Sternwarte* :

**Klaas S. de Boer:**



Main research interests:  
understanding the 3D structure of the local universe, i.e. the MW .

Published:  
many papers on *MW-halo gas and stars*

Heavily involved in the planning of  
astrometric space missions.

Pavel Kroupa: *MW Halo*, Bonn May 29th - June 2nd 2007

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1836: foundation of the Sternwarte and Argelander arrives

1875: Argelander deceases

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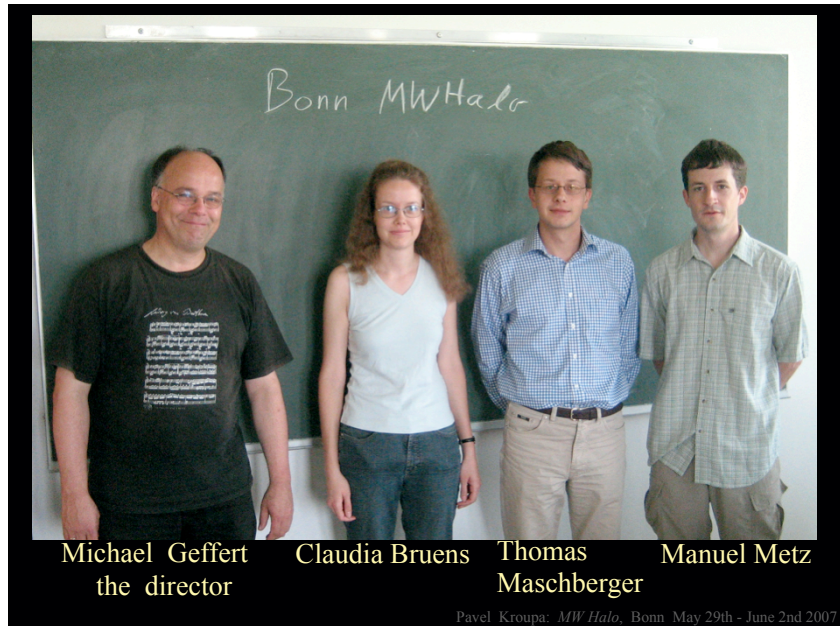
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→ 2006: the 3 university institutes combine to the AIfA

Pavel Kroupa: *MW Halo*, Bonn May 29th - June 2nd 2007



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→ The *Argelander-Institut fuer Astronomie*  
a designation for the *Bonn Centre for Astrophysics*  
originally proposed by Klaas de Boer.

Pavel Kroupa: *MW Halo*, Bonn May 29th - June 2nd 2007

The LOC and SOC  
wishes you  
a fruitful meeting.

Allegro von Traugott Fnfheld (born 1971)

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