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Papers on all aspects of astronomical history are considered, including studies that place the evolution of astronomy in political, economic and cultural contexts. Papers on astronomical heritage may deal with historic telescopes and observatories, conservation projects (including the conversion of historic observatories into museums of astronomy), and historical or industrial archaeological investigations of astronomical sites and buildings. All papers are refereed prior to publication. There are no page charges, and *in lieu* of reprints authors are sent a pdf or Word camera-ready version of their paper.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This photograph shows the 100-m Effelsberg Radio Telescope in the valley of the Effelsberg Creek, in Germany (the photograph was taken by Mr N. Tacke and is reproduced here by courtesy of the Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie). The planning, design and construction of this radio telescope occurred during the 1960s and early 1970s, with 'first light' occurring on 23 April 1971. The inset photograph shows the man behind this project and responsible for its fruition, Professor Dr Otto Hachenberg (photograph by courtesy of the Archiv der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft in Berlin-Dahlem). For information about this remarkable radio telescope, its links with the Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie, and the important contribution it has made to astrophysical research over the past forty years see the paper by Richard Wielebinski, Norbert Junkes and Berndt Grahl on pages 3-21 in this issue of the journal.