12-20-54

Aerogramme
G.P.O., Hobart
Tasmania, Australia

Dear Pfeiffer

Thanks for your note of October 13th which found its way to me here.

It is pleasant to learn that you had such a successful trip to Europe and were so well received by the various groups in radio astronomy. My impression is that they are all a good bunch of fellows.

You certainly did the right thing to become first hand familiar with the subject and any book you may write can't help but show the results of the trip.

A short synopsis of my results in Hawaii will appear in a current issue of Nature (London). When I get some reprints I'll send you one but this may be several months, so I suggest you thumb thru the Dec. & Jan. issues. I have brought all my data with me and expect to analyse it thoroughly later. The main trouble is that the results are so complex that it is difficult to get them in any order that can be discussed simply. A considerable part I cannot understand at all. Apparently that Kole Kole installation was such a great extrapolation over anything else that has been done, that the results are difficult to tie onto the rest of the existing art.

Here I am expecting to do an experiment using a hole in the ionosphere. The latter acts as a screen over the sky. The altitude of the hole can be adjusted by changing the frequency. As the earth turns the sky goes by and the hole scans the sky. The hole should be about 1.0° x 0.8° so good resolution may be obtained. Presently the whole thing is

highly speculative and may not work at all. However in six months or so we should know. The frequencies will be in the range from 1 to 10 megacycles, the you can tell, this scheme avoids the need for huge arrays at the low frequencies.

Hobart has a climate which is maritime like Hawaii but about 15° cooler. Most of the time the temperature hangs around 55° to 65° and the people seem to wear tops to the year around.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Grote Reber