

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

EDGEMONT ROAD
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903

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December 5, 1984

Dr. R.A.Laing,
Royal Greenwich Observatory,
Herstmonceux Castle,
Hailsham,
E. Sussex BN27 1RP,
U.K.

Dear Robert,

Here are "your" abstracts as I recovered them from my memory and my notes taken at the Workshop. The Proceedings have been paginated and will go to the print shop any day now. The only change I could make at this stage would be to replace these abstracts with any two one-page abstracts that you provide, if you got them to me (e.g. by Telex) before the printers actually start work.

Call me or write when you can.

With best wishes,



Alan

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Dr. A. H. BRIDLE
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November 29, 1984

Dr. R.A.Laing,
Royal Greenwich Observatory,
Herstmonceux Castle,
Hailsham,
E. Sussex BN27 1RP,
U.K.

Dear Robert,

Here is the version of your talk as I transcribed and slightly embellished it from the tape recording. While I was at it, I extracted the coherent part of the discussion. A few things you said in clarification during the discussion are now in the text. I used my judgement about points to re-emphasise by including again in the discussion. There wasn't time to do fancy diagrams - these are from your viewgraphs and my M84 file.

I hope this is acceptable, but the twice-over failure of your postal service to get things to Charlottesville and your subsequent disappearance from the face of the Earth has left me with no alternative. The other Workshop natives have been getting restless about when it's going to appear, and further delays are not fair to them (or to me, as I'm also being besieged with requests for reprints of the Proceedings).

Call me or write when you can - I've left messages for you with the RGO telephone operator and Telexed and written. Maybe you can't get to there from here, or *vice versa*.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Alan', written in dark ink.

Alan

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In reply please quote:

June 1st 1984

Dear Alan,

As you will see from the letterhead, I have been travelling a lot recently, which must be my excuse for not contacting you earlier.

I got your letter about M84 when I was back at the RSO in mid-May, but did not have time to copy the tape (running A2PS at the RSO being a somewhat difficult operation). I will deal with the problem when I get home on June 12th.

I would very much like to come to the Jets Workshops and have applied for travel money, but have no news as yet. My plans for the next few months are to spend 2 weeks in La Palma when I get back from this trip (I am working $\sim \frac{1}{2}$ time on INT commissioning at the moment) and to go to Jodrell Bank for the following 3 or 4 weeks, in order to work on VLA observations. It is much easier for me to do this at Jodrell for several reasons: lack of distractions, a full-time A2PS system and the availability of an AP. I should be able to finish off M84 during that trip, which immediately precedes the Jets Workshop.

Apart from that month, I am unlikely to have much time to work on VLA projects until September. My work on the INT will have first priority, but should be over by the end of the year (it is primarily concerned with the Control System, and will be finished

by the time the telescope is in normal operation). My involvement in the La Palme operation is the main reason why I did not pursue the question of NATO Grants any further. I would like to try for a grant next year, preferably for the 3CR Atlas. My main aims are to improve contacts between extragalactic radio astronomers in England and the U.S. and to keep open my own access to NRAO's computing facilities in times of financial stress at the RBO. We could discuss how best to do this (eg which people to put on the proposal) at the Jets Workshop.

You will probably have heard that RBO is going through a bad patch at the moment - staff cuts have been threatened, budgets have been cut, and so on. Things are looking up a bit at the moment, but the Observatory is still a somewhat gloomy place to work. In that respect, I am glad to have been working on La Palme recently - morale there is much higher and the bad features of RBO are much less apparent.

I enjoy living in Sussex and am pleased with my house (although it seems to take an inordinate amount of time to decorate ~~it~~). The RBO is a peculiar place to work: parts of it (instrument development and some of the research) are excellent, but the dead hand of administration is far too heavy and there are quite a few survivors from vanished epochs. I am not sure whether it can be turned into a top-class National Observatory: I suspect that if we can survive the next few years, then the La Palme Operation will be very successful - there are already some very nice instruments on the INT.

Please give my regards to all at NRAO and, of course, to Mary.

See you in July, I hope.

Robert

P.S. Who is going to be the next Director of NRAO?