

Monday, 3 December 2012

# Historical Excerpts

## *Astronomy in Bonn*

French revolution => French invade German states, get rid of the local Kings.

Napoleon defeated 1815 => Bonn area part of Prussia.

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

Local kings gone, so the university was placed into the King's buildings.



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Astronomy in Bonn began earnestly in 1836 with Friedrich Argelander's appointment as head of the Observatory (the *Sternwarte*)



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# Friedrich Argelander

**1799** birth in Klaipeda (near Koenigsberg)  
(today Kaliningrad, the western-most Russian city)

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

**1820 - 1822** : PhD student of Friedrich Bessel in Koenigsberg  
Bessel was interested to measure the distances and motions of stars to test Newton's law of gravitation.

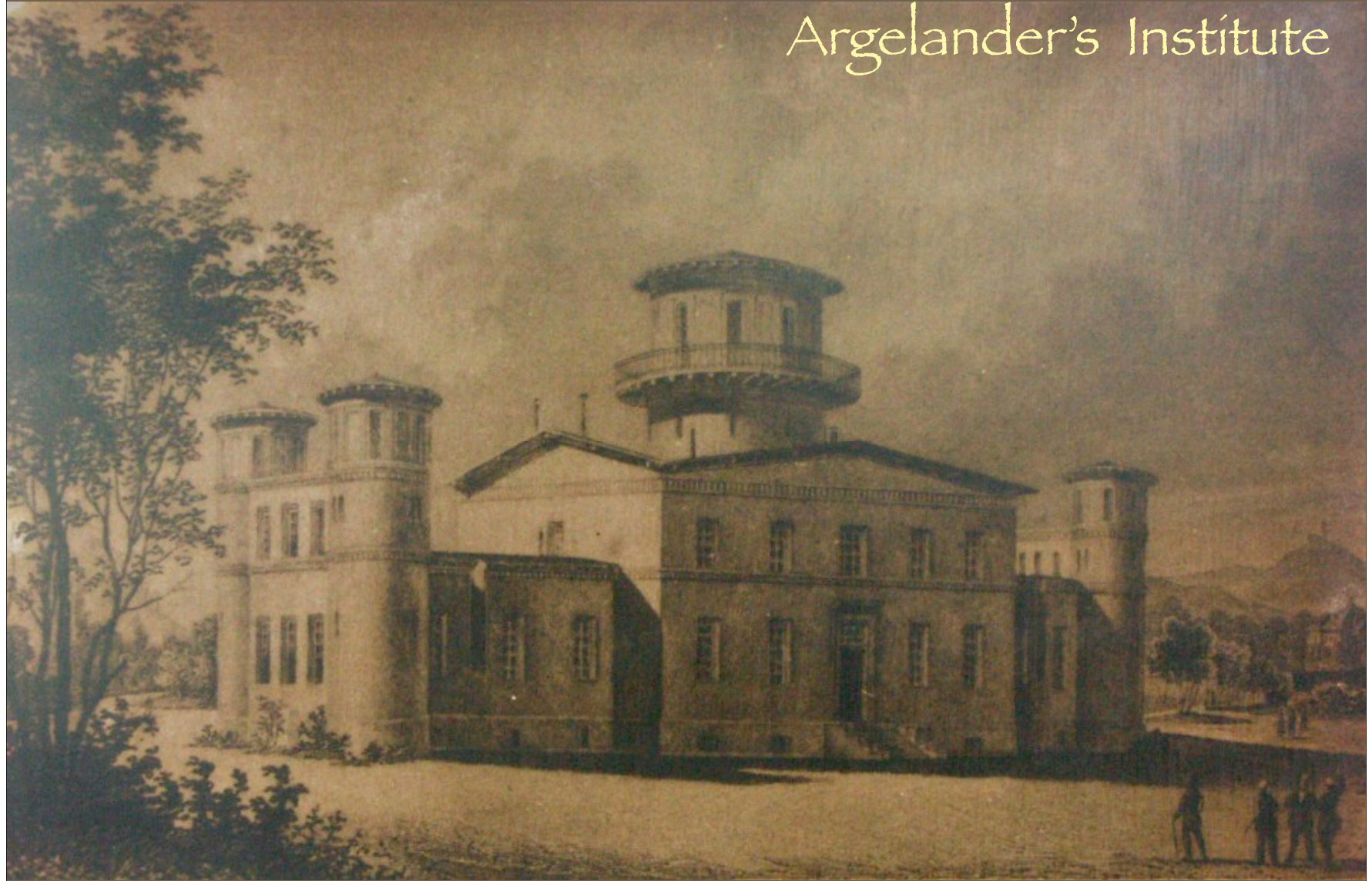
**1836** : Director of the Sternwarte in Bonn

**1850, 1864**: Rector of Bonn University

**1875** : Argelander deceases in the Sternwarte.

Argelander was born at the end of the French Revolution (1789-1799)  
and died when Germany was born (1871).

# Argelander's Institute



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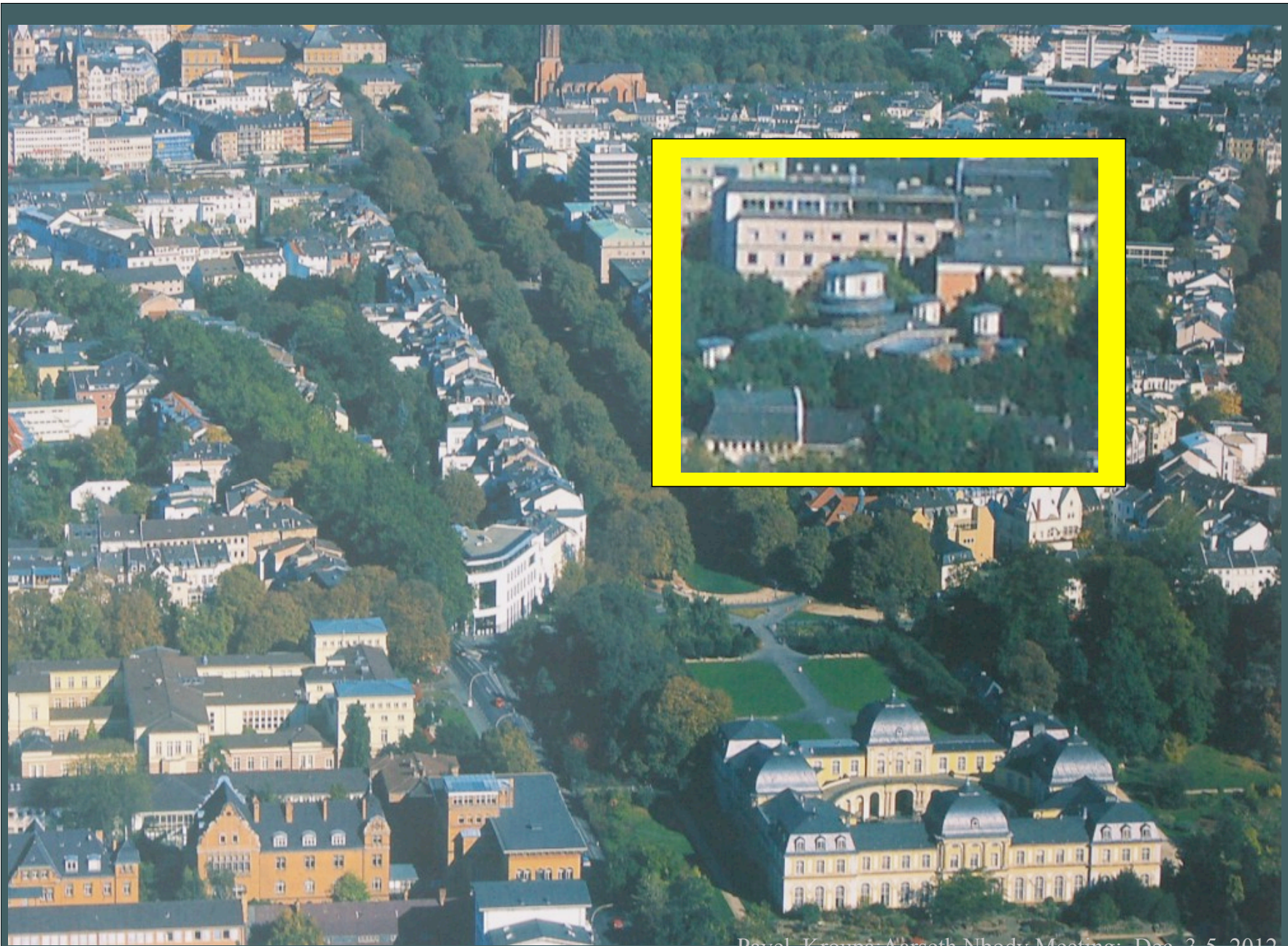
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At the *Sternwarte*, Argelander

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.

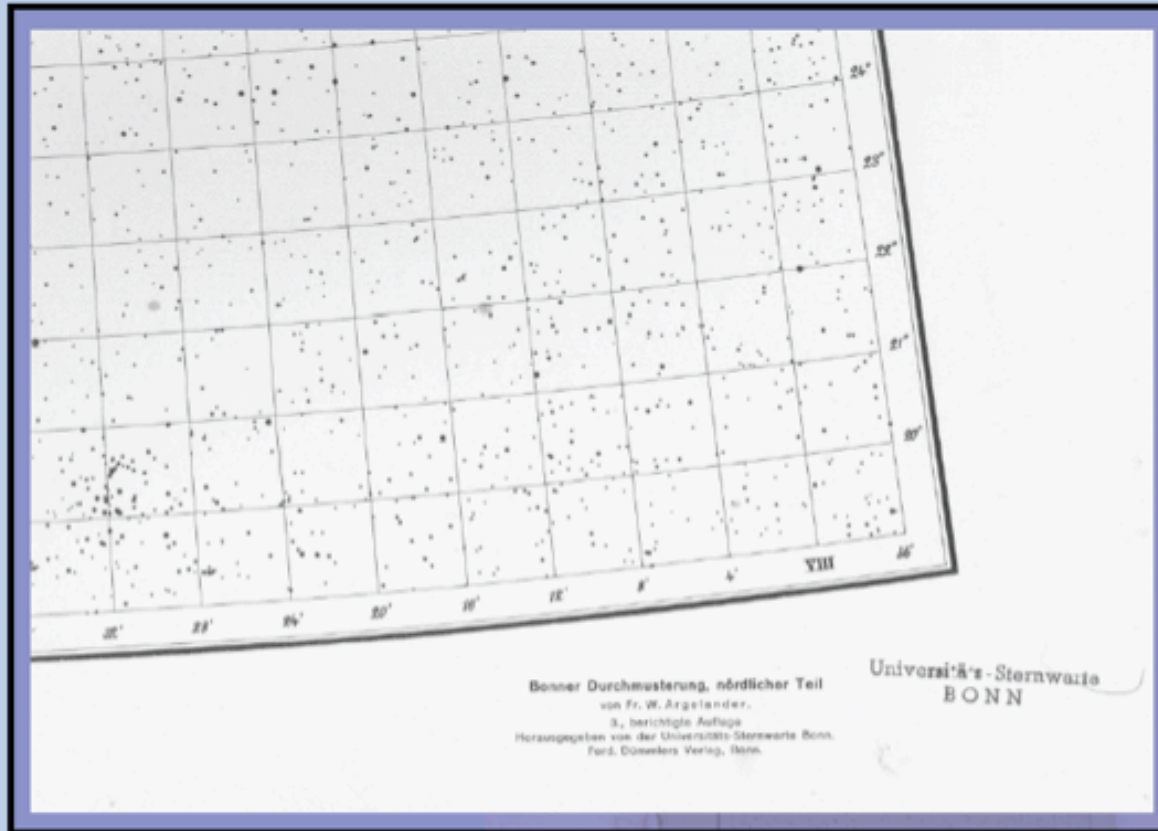


The “BD telescope”  
 $D=7.7\text{cm}$ ,  $f=65\text{cm}$

two observers

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# The “Bonner Durchmusterung” 1852-1859



BD catalogue

324198 stars

48 maps

Dec +90 to -2

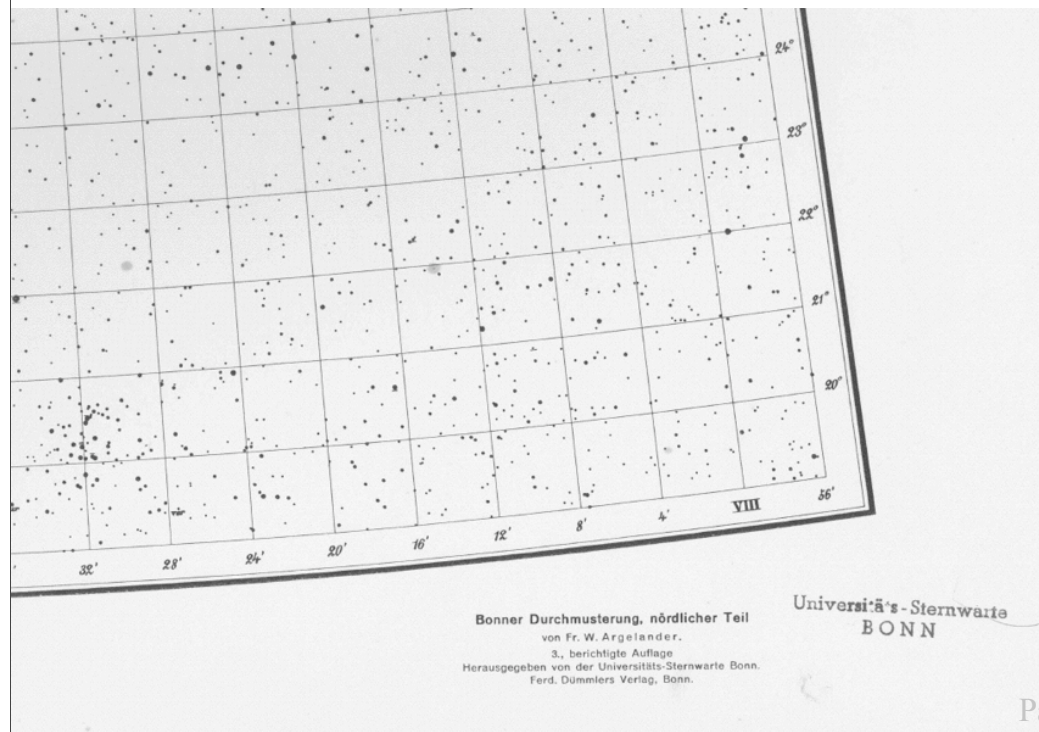
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## With the *Bonner Durchmusterung* (the Bonn Survey)

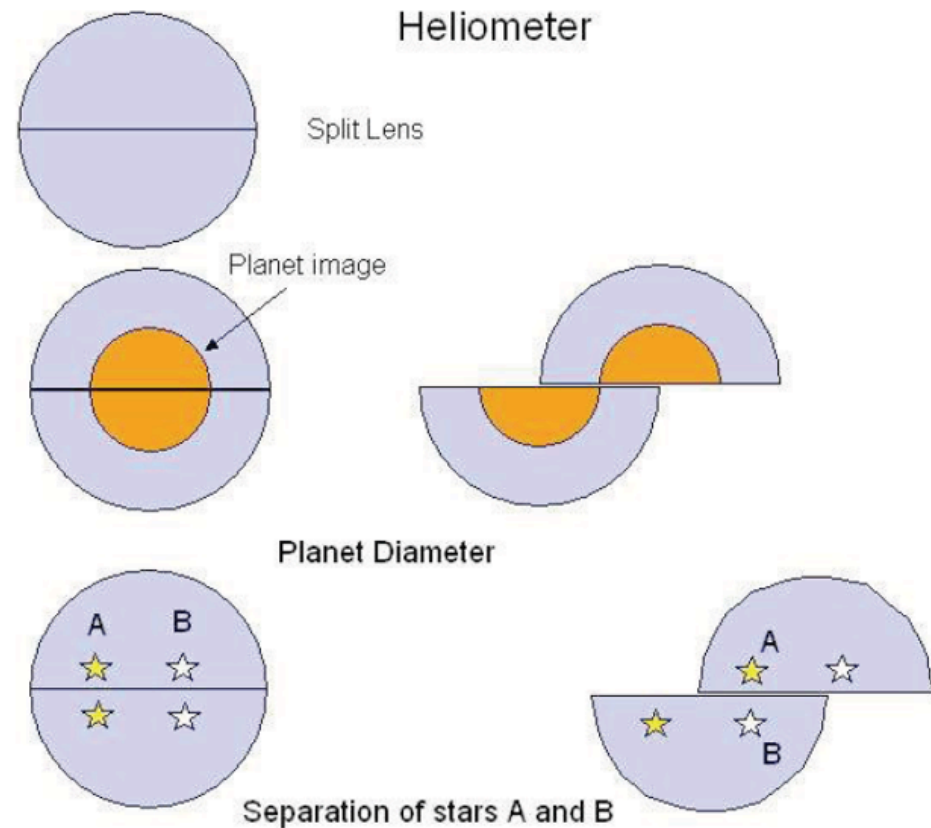
- it became possible to identify stars
- to search for comets and minor planets
- to find candidate nearby stars
- analyse statistics of the stars in the MW  
( → HRD ultimately)



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# At the *Sternwarte*, Argelander

and his team also measured distances to stars using the heliometer



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Heliometer  
acquired 1842  
by Argelander

In 1870 of the  
13 parallaxes known:  
4 from the Bonner  
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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→ 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*

1818: foundation of Bonn University

1836: foundation of the Sternwarte and Argelander arrives

1875: Argelander deceases

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1986- 2007: Klaas de Boer is director of the Sternwarte

- 2006: the 3 university institutes combine to the AIfA
- 2012: Closure of the HoLiObs

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

Director: Pavel Kroupa

# 2nd Gluehwine Aarseth Nbody meeting

Dec. 3-5, 2013

## **Some Info:**

*Handouts* = programme + internet access

*Lectures in different locations:* see programme

*Coffee* : 1st floor coffee room

*Lunch* : Telecom / Endenich / (MPI canteen)

There is no registration fee.

**Entering / leaving** the building : 09:00 - 18:00 doors are open

**Your "office" here:** ALMA room in the basement.

We  
wish you  
a fruitful meeting

Sambaran Banerjee  
& PK