

History of the 35cm Telescope

The Origins of the main instrument

This telescope was purchased new, and is operational since September 3, 2004.

The casing of the instrument has been modified in the past, in order to provide optimal balance when the viewer was still operating in its original mount. The modification amounted to the installation of a block-shaped counterweight at the backside of the telescope's casing.

In July 2010, Harry Balster and Marc Fokker disassembled the optics in order to restore the focus of the telescope. Apparently, it is hard to distinguish between the knobs for the mirror lock and focusing. This resulted in damaged mechanics and a mirror stuck at a useless focal point. Fortunately, an inspection of the mirrors revealed that they are still in excellent condition.

The telescope is in use on its new mount, a 10 micron GM4000, since November 9, 2011. The new mount radically improved the instrument's tracking precision and has a much larger load bearing capacity, such that the telescope can easily be outfitted with several cameras and sensors.

Info taken from: <http://www.centaurus-a.nl/home/index.php/35cm-schmidt-cassegrain>
Translated by: Karel Temmink (October, 2018)
Edited by: Leon Houben (October, 2018)