

LETTER TO THE EDITOR**"Handbook for Solar Observers"**

SONNE is the association of amateur solar observers in the Federal Republic of Germany. It was founded in 1977. To date 29 quarterly issues of its journal SONNE have been published, each about 40 pages in length. SONNE now contacts about 30 countries around the world. The journal has about 500 readers.

In 1983 SONNE published a 700-page Handbook for Solar Observers. Included are comprehensive reports from 28 authors (the twelve editors of SONNE and other amateurs) on all fields of today's amateur work in solar observation.

The Handbook is divided into three main parts: Instruments and Tools, Observation and Evaluation, and Eclipses of the Sun. Also included is an index with about 600 catchwords, as well as a literature index with about 900 entries.

In Instruments and Tools are papers about refractor, reflector, and projection telescopes, spectroscopes, micrometers, photometers, filters, helioscopes, and special instruments like spectro-helioscopes, protuberance pieces, Lyot-filters, and radioastronomic instruments. Photographic techniques are also mentioned, such as microdensitometry and film cameras/video.

In Observation and Evaluation are covered all aspects of possible observations, such as sunspots, relative numbers, positions, the Wilson effect, light bridges, white-light network, photospheric faculae, granulation, H-alpha and Ca observations, and magnetic field observations. In each division there are also proposals for computing results from the observations and programs of SONNE.

Finally, in Eclipses of the Sun, there are reports about expeditions to solar eclipses and the necessary instrumentation. Different topics are mentioned: flash spectrum, corona, polarization, protuberances, historic solar eclipses, relativistic deviation of light, and more.

The Handbook is issued in German, with an initial printing of about 1000 copies. It has been very popular among German observers. It is edited and produced completely by amateur astronomers in their free time. All orders should be directed to:

SONNE
Wilhelm-Forster-Sternwarte
Munsterdamm 90
D-1000 Berlin 41
Federal Republic of Germany

The price for the 700-page Handbook is DM 39.80 (approximately \$13.00 US), including postage and handling. Please use International Money Order or transfer money to postal Giro account no. 4404446-107 Berlin-West.

An English translation of the Handbook was proposed by many friends outside Germany. We wish it also, but we need translators who would make the translation, not totally free, but not at commercial rates, because the price and spirit of the amateur astronomical character of the book should be retained.

Jost Jahn
Rosenweg 2
D-2410 Molln/Lbg.
West Germany

Ed. note: Interested persons may contact Mr. Jahn.