



Ingrid van Houten – Groeneveld

1921 - 2015

2013 for the portrait gallery

Born 21.10.1921 in Berlin, Germany, studied at the university of Heidelberg. February 1944 after promotion research assistant at the Sternwarte Heidelberg. After the war part time at Astronomisches Rechen-Institut in Heidelberg.

From 1948 till about 1951 together with Prof. A. Bohrmann et al. for "the catalogue of accurate positions of faint stars" with Meridian circle. Then finding and identifying asteroids from circa 1950 on.

In 1952 Dr. G. P. Kuiper needed help for his McDonald-survey of Minor Planets. The purpose was to photograph a ring along the ecliptic for about 15 months, to photograph all known asteroids till about 16th magnitude. The magnitudes should be determined by photographing Selected Area fields with correct established magnitudes. Till this time every observer had his own magnitude system. Tom Gehrels was responsible to determine the absolute magnitudes of all about 2000 asteroids known around 1950.

I had experience in the searching and identifying the objects. From 1952 till 1954 I was in Yerkes Observatory. My successor for the McDonald survey became C.J. van Houten from Leiden Observatory.

In November 1955 I came back to Yerkes to help finishing the work and writing the article. Kees (Dutch abbreviation of Cornelis) and I observed rotational periods of asteroids. But before we left the States we decided to marry (in Germany), both of us being 'Europeans' in USA.

In 1957 I came to Leiden where I worked on the $1/a$ -values of the comets used by J.H. Oort in his study of their distribution. At that time, one still had to make the numerical integrations with the old table-calculators instead of computers. In 1960 we started the Palomar-Leiden-Survey together with G.P. Kuiper, T. Gehrels, P. Herget and B.G. Marsden, followed in 1971, 1973, 1977 by 3 Trojan-Surveys.