



Figure 12.1: Istanbul University Observatory and the telescopes

12. Istanbul University Observatory with its Past, Present, and Future

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Figure 12.2: *Istanbul University Observatory (Photo right: Andreas Schrimpf, Marburg)*

Here Istanbul University Observatory is introduced with its short history and present time situation. Istanbul University Observatory is the first education/-research institution of the Turkish Republic.

It was established under the directory of Dr. Erwin Finley Freundlich (1885–1964) after the University Reform which took place in 1933. Freundlich was until 1933 observing with the solar tower in the Einstein Institute in Potsdam and professor in Berlin.

In the history of Istanbul University Observatory the other important person was Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Gleißberg (1903–1986), also of Jewish origin, who worked as assistant in Breslau Observatory. After his dismissal he came to Turkey and became professor in 1934 and stayed for 24 years.

The observatory building in the Beyazıt University Campus was erected in 1935–1936 by the engineer Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi. An astrograph (30 cm, focal length 150 cm) was ordered by Gleißberg in 1934 from the Zeiss firm of Jena. Then it came over Trieste by ship and arrived in 1936 and was settled in the dome of the new building.

All research was in the field of theory until 1948 (space absorption, stellar structure). Then the sunspot cycle and minor planets were observed and studied.

In the present, the Observatory, which is known with the solar photospheric and chromospheric observations, is a part of Istanbul University, Science Faculty, Astronomy and Space Science Department.