

Renowned Astronomer Visits Here



—Times Staff Photo.

KLEPESTA, HUJER WITH FAMED METEOR-STREAKED ANDROMEDA NEBULA PHOTO

By CLARENCE BRUCE

A spot in a crater on the moon has been reserved for the inscription of the name of Josef Klepesta, Czechoslovak astronomer, who has achieved worldwide renown for his sun researches, in recent years through the medium of photography, and who last week was the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Karel Hujer, friends of many years' standing.

The "place in the moon" is an honor bestowed by the International Astronomical Union, and can be realized only after the recipient is dead.

Just now, Klepesta is very much alive.

He was invited to Chattanooga by Dr. Hujer, his visit to coincide with the recent eclipse of the sun.

The results of that phase

of the visit have been mixed. Another friend whom Klepesta first met in Europe, Capt. Robert Fried of Delta Airlines, with headquarters in Atlanta, put a plane at the distinguished astronomer's disposal, and they cruised over South Georgia at an elevation of 12,000 feet.

Ironically, they found themselves between two layers of cloud, and did not have a clear view of the eclipse. But, Klepesta recalled, it was an unforgettable experience — awesome and almost frightening — to witness the approach of the moon's shadow through the cloud masses, suddenly engulfing the plane and its occupants.

The friendship of Dr. Hujer and his guest extends back more than a half-century, to student days in Prague.

Klepesta is one of two honorary members of the Czech Astronomical Society, of which he is the only surviving cofounder. He has published numerous treatises in the area of astronomy, is the recipient of a medal from the French Astronomical Society, and other honors from fellow scientists.

Klepesta is on the staff of the Stefanik Observatory in Prague. His work with photography, particular of solar prominences through the use of an "artificial eclipse" to black out the body of the sun, has attracted worldwide attention among astronomers. One of his major accomplishments, however, compilation of an international star atlas, was done before celestial photography had been developed to the degree of efficiency it has attained later.