

The Astronomer Wilhelm Tempel

Further information by
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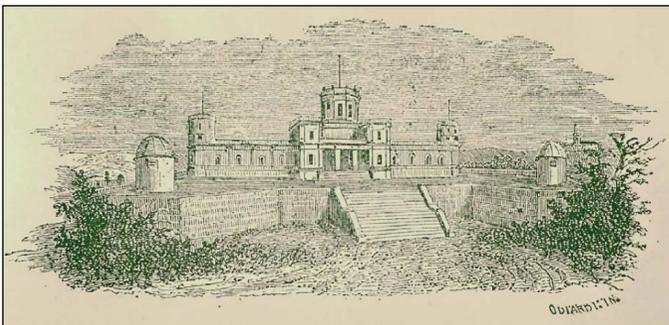
In the second half of the 19th century Wilhelm Tempel ranked among the most popular research scientists because of his many discoveries in astronomy. (Prof. Dr. Dieter B. Herrmann, astronomy historian, Berlin)



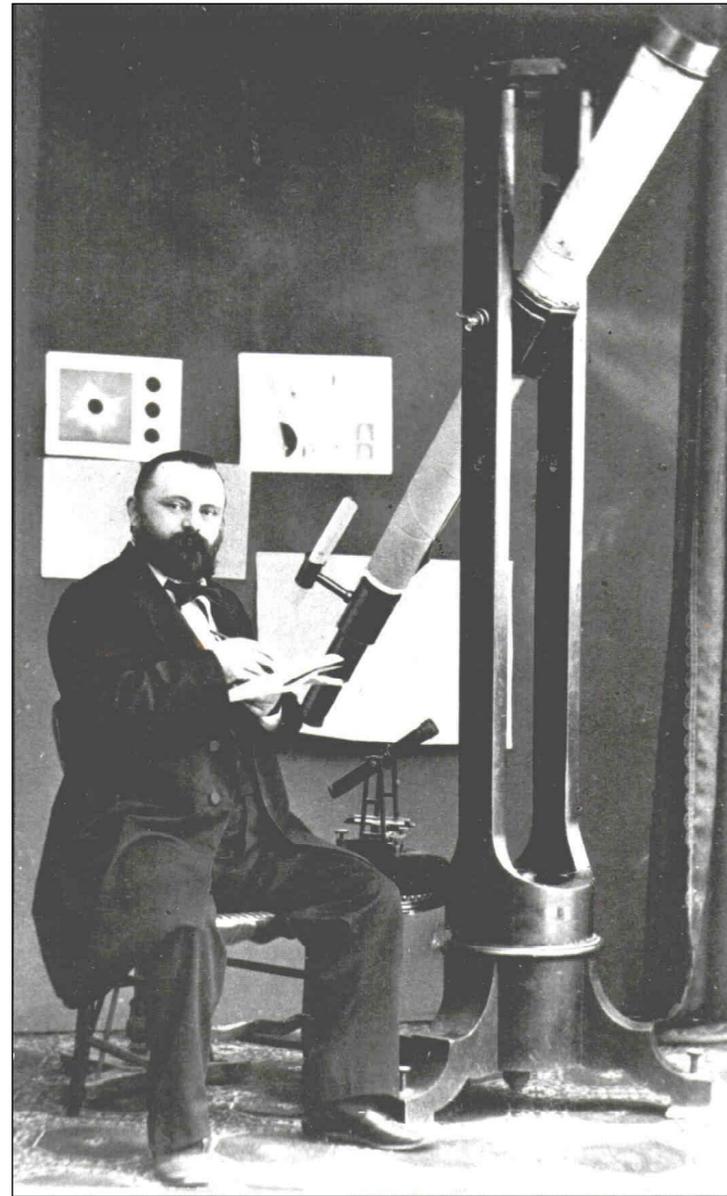
Birth house in Niedercunnersdorf near Loebau, today Gartenweg 26

Milestones of Tempel's Life

- 1821 Born, grew up, went to school in Niedercunnersdorf (Saxony, Germany)
- 1837 Began apprenticeship as a lithographer in Meißen
- 1840 Began work as a lithographer in North Europe
- 1858 Purchased a telescope in Venice (Italy) and made first discoveries
- 1860 Worked as a lithographer and astronomer in Marseille (France)
- 1871 Teamed up with Schiaparelli, also an astronomer, in Milan (Italy)
- 1875 Became Director of the Royal Observatory Arcetri (Italy) until his death in 1889



Observatory Arcetri near Florence in the year 1872



Ernst Wilhelm Leberecht Tempel 1868 in Marseille with his telescope

Tempel's Discoveries

Twelve comets, of which the following four are short period comets:

- 9P/Tempel 1, destination of Deep Impact
- 10P/Tempel 2
- 11P/Tempel-Swift-LINEAR
- 55P/Tempel-Tuttle, comet of the Leonids

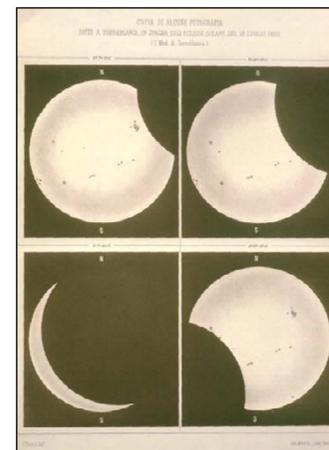
Five minor planets:

- (64) Angelina
- (65) Cybele
- (74) Galatea
- (81) Terpsichore
- (97) Clotho

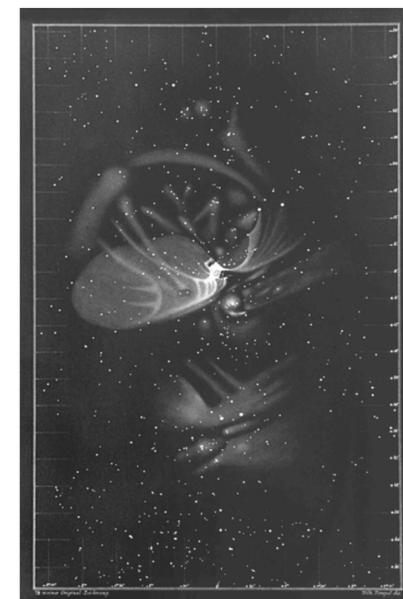
Many nebulae. His surveys of these laid the groundwork for future explanation. They are now known to be gaseous nebulae (made of gas and dust), star clusters and distant galaxies. His most spectacular discovery was the Merope Nebula (today NGC 1435) in the star cluster of the Pleiades.



From his Observing Logs



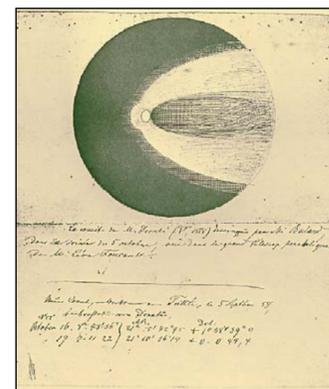
The total eclipse on 18.July 1860



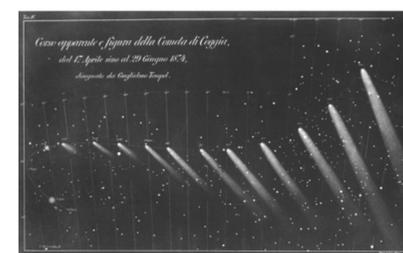
A lithography of the Orion Nebula



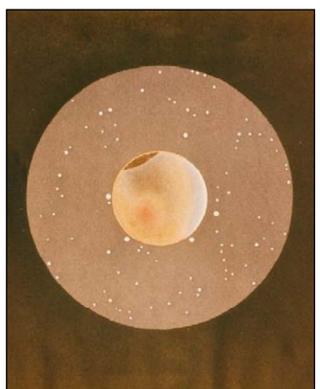
The moon crater Copernicus



Comet Donati 1858 V



Coggia: The great comet of 1874



Moon eclipse on 1. June 1863

Honors

- 1861 Paris Academy of the Sciences, Lalande Prize
- 1870 Two comet prizes from the Vienna Academy
- 1872 Knighted by Emperor Auguste Souverain of the Imperial Rose Order of Brazil
- 1879 Humbertus Prize from the Academy in Rome
- 1881 Paris Academy of the sciences Valz Prize
- 1881 Received commendation as an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society of London
- 1898 Moon crater "Tempel" named by J. N. Krieger
- 1971 Commemorative Tempel Monument erected in Niedercunnersdorf
- 1988 Planet (3808) "Tempel" named by F. Boerngen
- 1990 "Wilhelm Tempel School" in Niedercunnersdorf

