



PLATE 4

This infrared image reveals an extraordinary landscape of glowing tendrils of gas, dark clouds, and young stars, 2700 light-years away. The picture is of Monoceros R2, a star-forming region which is almost completely obscured by interstellar dust when viewed in visible light, but which is spectacular in the infrared, as captured by the *VISTA* telescope at ESO's Paranal Observatory in Chile's Atacama Desert. (Image courtesy of ESO, J. Emerson, and the Cambridge Astronomical Survey Unit.)



PLATE I

This view of a crater on Mount Ararat was taken by Vahe Gurzadyan during a climbing trip with Sverre Aarseth in 2004 August. The possibility that it is due to a meteor impact is discussed in this issue on page 31.



PLATE 2

Stonehenge with a backdrop of brilliant noctilucent clouds on the night of 2009 June 17, taken a little after 2215 UT. The cloud changed quite rapidly and at this point was nearest its brightest, though the contrast was more intense 15 minutes later. This stunning image was recorded by Grant Privett using an 8-second exposure with a Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ7.



PLATE 3

The Galactic supernova remnant CTB 1 in Cassiopeia is one of the largest and dimmest SNRs known. Of interest is the shell rupture at the 11-o'clock position which extends 30 arc-minutes due east. The SNR shows up well in H α and S II but is quite weak in O III. This remarkable picture from Anthony Ajiomamitis is the result of 30 hours' total exposure. More details are provided in the letter on page 32 in this issue.