

**Simon Balm: Stellar Axis, Antarctica**  
**Collection CAE1112**

**Introduction/Abstract**

The archive *Simon Balm: Stellar Axis, Antarctica* consists of materials collected by Simon Balm, the astrophysicist contracted by Lita Albuquerque for her Stellar Axis project, which was installed on the Ross Ice Shelf in late 2006. Materials include data files, correspondence, packing lists, helicopter support requests, plot of Stellar Axis spheres and Archimedean spiral, drawings of spheres and mounts by Performance Composites, Inc., and maps.

**Simon Balm**

A native of London, England, Simon Balm received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Durham in 1988 and his Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from the University of Sussex in 1992, working with Nobel Prize winning chemist Sir Harold Kroto. After graduate school he spent two years as a NATO Postdoctoral Fellow in the UCLA Astronomy Department followed by four years as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, MA where he helped to design, build and install a radio telescope at the geographical South Pole. After several Summer visits to the Antarctic he wintered-over with the telescope at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole station during the 1995-1996 season as a scientist with United States Antarctic Program.

Following his work in the Antarctic he spent several years teaching Astronomy as an Adjunct Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles and then joined Santa Monica College as a full time faculty member in the Fall of 2000 where he is currently a Professor of Astronomy and Chemistry in the Department of Earth Sciences. In December of 2006 he traveled to the Antarctic again with renowned Santa Monica artist Lita Albuquerque as the science advisor on the first large-scale art installation to be placed on the continent.

Simon has many interests outside of academia including, hiking, mountaineering, swimming, scuba diving and horse riding. He also runs a small IT consulting business and is a musician, playing the trombone in a local community symphony orchestra.

**Scope and Content**

The archive *Simon Balm: Stellar Axis, Antarctica* consists of materials used by Simon Balm, the astrophysicist contracted by Lita Albuquerque to design the placement of the blue spheres on the ice for her Stellar Axis project, which was installed on the Ross Ice Shelf in late 2006. Materials include data files, correspondence, packing lists, helicopter support requests, plot of Stellar Axis spheres and Archimedean spiral, drawings of spheres and mounts by Performance Composites, Inc., and maps.

**Dates**

2006

**Quantity / Extent**

.125 cubic feet

## Language

English

## Arrangement

This archive is arranged into five folders:

- Folder 1: Project Data (1 of 3), 2006
- Folder 2: Project Data (2 of 3), 2006
- Folder 3: Project Data (3 of 3), 2006
- Folder 4: Sphere Technical Drawings, 2006
- Folder 5: Transport Logistics, 2006

## Related Archive Collections

- CAE1042: *Lita Albuquerque: Stellar Axis, Antarctica*
- CAE1103: *Joan Myers: Wondrous Cold, An Antarctic Journey*
- CAE1107: *Stephen Eastaugh: Antarctic Work*
- CAE1116: *Chris Drury: Antarctica*
- CAE1117: *William L. Fox: Terra Antarctica*
- CAE1115: *Daniela Bertol and David Foell: Sunfarm*
- CAE1202: *David Rosenthal: Paintings of the North and South Polar Regions*
- CAE1218: *Jean de Pomereu: Antarctic Photographs*
- CAE1219: *Stuart Klipper: The Antarctic, From the Circle to the Pole*

## Container Listing by Folder:

### CAE1112: Folders 1-5, 2006

#### CAE Box 1

- 1 Project Data (1 of 3), 2006
- 2 Project Data (2 of 3), 2006
- 3 Project Data (3 of 3), 2006
- 4 Sphere Technical Drawings, 2006
- 5 Transport Logistics, 2006