

Epilogue

“L’homme n’est encore qu’à la préface du livre qu’il est appelé à écrire sur l’Univers.”¹

[As yet, Man is only at the preface of the book that he is called to write on the Universe.]

Jules Janssen

The Last Ascent: Vesuvius in a Sedan-Chair

It was on December 14, 1904, at an age of more than 80, that Janssen decided to “visit” Vesuvius again. He was accompanied by the faithful Millochau and, after having climbed part of the mountain on the funicular, he took a carrying chair with porters to reach the summit. When they arrived, the astronomers were subjected to “a considerable discharge of lapilli and volcanic bombs, which, thrown more than 30 m into the air, fell around them.”² Janssen only just avoided being hit, because one of these 30-cm bombs landed 4 m away from his chair. Janssen did not consent to the panic-stricken guides’ descent until his work was finished: he had photographs taken and samples collected. Because the location chosen was not adequate for examining the changes in sunlight that arose when it had passed through the vapors escaping from the crater, Janssen decided to have himself carried elsewhere the next day, which left time for Millochau to obtain samples of the gas. The operation was obviously not without danger, because the bottles were lowered 10 m down into the crater. On 16 December, the team reached another location with porters. There, a large grating spectroscope, as well as a 108-mm refractor, fitted with a direct-vision spectroscope were quickly installed, and Janssen had some photographs of the solar spectrum taken (which he intended to study later), under different

¹Jules Janssen’s notebook, 30 July 1884, BIF Ms 4129–9.

²Janssen, Jules, “Sur une récente ascension au Vésuve”, *CRAS*, **140** (23 January 1905), 200–2.

conditions: the Sun behind the fumes escaping from the crater, the Sun beginning to move clear of the fumes, and the Sun away from Vesuvius, as well as some spectra of the diffuse light from the sky.

The Last Eclipse

Being closely occupied by Mont Blanc and his various meetings, Janssen had not left France to travel to observe an eclipse since that of 1883 at Caroline Island. So it was the photographer Pasteur, the “pupils” Stanoievitch, Stefanik, the Spaniard Landerer, and above all the associate astronomer La Baume Pluvinel, who hardly missed any except Senegal in 1893, who represented Janssen’s observatory in eclipse expeditions abroad. In 1900, however, it was the astronomer Deslandres who directed the expedition in Spain.

On August 30, 1905, the duration of the eclipse was close to 4 min, and the line of totality passed through Spain. While Deslandres directed the expedition that had been entrusted to him by the Bureau des longitudes at Burgos, on which he took Kannapell and d’Azambuja, and complained that he had too few instruments at his disposal, Janssen went to Alcosèbre, together with the astronomers Millochau and Stefanik, and the photographer and assistant photographer Pasteur and Coroyer.

The aims of the expedition were to “study the progress of the phenomenon by means of photography; the form and details of the corona and the prominences; the spectra of the various gaseous envelopes of the Sun; and the meteorological changes produced by the eclipse,”³ but Janssen was there only as a spectator.

Pasteur obtained photographs that showed the prominences and the higher level of the chromosphere, and the middle section of the corona. As for the coronal jets, they extended to $1^{\circ}23.5'$ from the Sun’s limb, that is to more than 5 solar radii.

In the C line of hydrogen, and the D_3 line of helium, Stefanik observed three fine prominences, but the monochromatic image of the corona was essentially absent. It was, by contrast, extremely brilliant in the green line of “coronium.”

As for him, Millochau noticed that the spectrum of the prominences primarily consisted of the lines of hydrogen and helium and that these lines were not coronal, whereas the continuous spectrum of the corona showed a maximum between the D_3 line and the green line.

Stefanik and Millochau prepared several papers for the Académie des sciences, which Janssen presented and commented upon. Contrary to Janssen’s normal practice, quantitative results were given in the papers. In addition, these publications were gathered together in a section of the *Annales* where some beautiful heliographic plates were shown.⁴

³Janssen, Jules, “Observation de l’éclipse totale du 30 août 1905 à Alcosèbre (Espagne)”, *CRAS*, **141** (09 October 1905), 569–71.

⁴Janssen, Jules, *Annales de l’Observatoire d’astronomie physique de Paris*, Vol. 3, first Part, Paris, Gauthier-Villars, 1906.

The Last Farce

Janssen would not leave his post as Director because he enjoyed a special dispensation. Deslandres therefore had to wait a long time for his expected succession, following his transfer from Paris to Meudon in November 1897. It was not until July 1906 that he was named Assistant Director in charge of administrative matters, as a result of the intervention of the senator Boudenoot, an ex-student of the Polytechnique. The latter had actually written to the minister for public education on January 12, 1906:

I intended, when there was discussion of the budget for public education, to ask you a question about the administration and functioning of the Meudon Observatory, which appear to me to be compromised, as well as the interests of science, by the maintenance in his post of a man who is 82 years of age.⁵

On 19 July, the minister, Aristide Briand, wrote to Janssen:

As I assured you, during the conversation that I recently had with you, I am fully disposed to retain you as head of the Observatory of Meudon until the Conference that is due to take place there in 1907. The numerous and eminent services that you have given to science, your beautiful discoveries in such a new field as physical Astronomy, the actual creation of this Observatory, founded on your initiative, create a duty for me to defer to the desire that you have expressed. I beg you, therefore, to see in this decision a mark of the high esteem of the Government for the scientist whose work has brought honor to our country. But I have made an order, by the terms of which M. Deslandres is made responsible for the duties of Assistant Director, and administrator; I am convinced that he will be a useful and competent collaborator for you, etc.⁶

On July 28, 1906, there took place at Meudon “the installation of Deslandres as Assistant Director,” a proper farce, the principal scene of which was the object of a printed report that was sent to the administration in December 1906. All the personnel, with the exception of Millochau and the caretaker Guillot, who were on holiday, were assembled in the library. The report was written by the mechanic Chevalier, the book-keeper Heymann, the photographer Pasteur, and Janssen. The extracts that follow give an idea of the atmosphere that prevailed at Meudon that day:

Janssen

I have come to this meeting to tell you that I remain as Director here, but that the Minister has charged M. Deslandres with the administration of the Observatory. You must, therefore, obey him in future [...]

M. Deslandres rushes into the room and, without taking off his panama hat, shouts in fury at M. Janssen:

Deslandres

I have given the order for the personnel to be called individually, and then you, you call them together collectively! This must stop! You are nothing any more! Nothing but honorary

⁵Cited by Véron Philippe, in *Dictionnaire des astronomes français, 1850–1950*.

⁶Letter from Aristide Briand to Jules Janssen, 19 July 1906, a type-written copy, SAF, Flammarion collection at Juvisy.

Director, all the administration belongs to me; I told you that yesterday, but you're splitting hairs, you're splitting hairs ...

Janssen, choking

No, I am not splitting hairs; moreover you owe me some deference. [...]

Deslandres

[...] What are you complaining about? I could have taken everything; I could have had myself named Director, I was offered it, but I didn't want to. [...] I didn't want to accept; all these material advantages that I could have taken, I've left them to you; you owe me all of that and ...

Janssen

Yes, I know what I owe you! Go away!

Deslandres, to the personnel

Well! Well!

the personnel

.....

Deslandres, to Janssen

Ah, so it's me?

Janssen

Yes, you!!!

Deslandres

Right, right!

He exits smiling, and goes and hides behind the half-open door.

Janssen

No, I cannot accept this, and I retract what I have said, you will obey the orders of M. Deslandres only after I have confirmed them.⁷

Hostilities had clearly been opened, as the sequel to this event confirmed. As when Stefanik was on an expedition to Mont Blanc in August 1906, Deslandres had the doors to the apartment that he occupied at the observatory forced, so that he could install a family who did not belong to the administration. In the following December, Deslandres dismissed Heymann, a Dutch citizen who had been employed at the observatory since December 1881, and he sent Kannapel away, who for 3 years had been assigned to carry out his own orders.⁸ After Janssen's death, the war continued with Mme Janssen and her daughter, who left their dwelling in the observatory on September 28, 1908 to move to the avenue du Château at Bellevue.⁹

⁷*Observatoire de Meudon, Installation de M. Deslandres comme Directeur-Adjoint, 1906, SAF, Flammarion collection at Juvisy.*

⁸Véron Philippe, in *Dictionnaire des astronomes français, 1850–1950.*

⁹Down the hill from Meudon.

“Deslandres had the moving vans blocked in, because they contained a certain number of instruments that had belonged to Janssen personally, in particular two reflectors with apertures of 20 and 37 cm, which Deslandres maintained were the property of the observatory. They had to obtain an order from the civil tribunal at Versailles to allow the move to go ahead!”¹⁰

Twelve years later, did Deslandres really think that he had definitely been involved in “hostility” when he pronounced the following words in front of Janssen’s statue?

It is always difficult to have new ideas accepted; and without it being necessary to stress this, Janssen often came up against indifference or even hostility. He was able to succeed thanks to his exceptional qualities. Very intelligent, even having a lot of wit, he was interested in all the great questions and, as he was at the same time a scientist, an artist, and a poet, he knew how to express his ideas and his projects with particular charm. His way of speaking was exquisite, and his powers of persuasion were very great. The natural gifts greatly served the cause of Astronomy and the Observatory of Meudon.¹¹

The Last Family Photo

It was following a suggestion by the American, George Hale, that an international association for solar studies should be created that a steering committee met at Oxford in September 1905, after the eclipse. France was represented by Deslandres, La Baume Pluvinel, Alfred Perot of the CNAM, Charles Fabry then of the Faculty of Sciences at Marseille, and Janssen, who went to Oxford with Henriette and Antoinette. These ladies are in the group photograph, where Lockyer is seated next to Janssen, the honorary President. In France, the daily press reported the event in an article that dealt with prediction of the weather: “The immortal work of M. Janssen and those of the New solar Union have, in reality, the same end [*the improvement of the laws governing atmospheric phenomena*], as well as studying the constitution of the body that illuminates us.”¹²

Two years later, in May 1907, the young association met at Meudon, and it was there that it decided “to adopt the value of 6,438.4696 units of Angström for the wavelength of the red line of cadmium. The unit thus defined coincided, within the accuracy available at the time, to one ten-millionth of a millimeter.”¹³ Although at Oxford there were only 33 people in the photograph, including five ladies, there was more than double the number at Meudon (Fig. Epi. 1). Retained as Director thanks to this conference, Janssen, the patriarch, “immutably dressed in a black frock coat and wearing a large white cravat,”¹⁴ is seated this time between his wife and daughter; but friend Lockyer is not far away, between Mme Janssen and Weiss.

¹⁰*Ibid*

¹¹Deslandres, Henri, in *Inauguration de la statue de Jules Janssen*, 15–23, p. 22.

¹²*Le Petit Journal*, 12 October 1905, p. 2.

¹³Salet, Pierre, *Spectroscopie astronomique*, Paris, Doin, 1909, p. 145.

¹⁴*Le Petit Journal*, 24 December 1907, p. 1.



Fig. Epi.1 *The Conference of the Union for Co-operation in Solar Research (Meudon, May 1907). Seated from left to right: Father Cirera, Weiss, Lockyer, Mme Janssen, Janssen, Melle Janssen, ?, Deslandres. Hale is behind Weiss.* © Paris Observatory Library

December 23, 1907

On the day that Janssen's statue was unveiled, Flammarion finished his speech with these words:

On his deathbed, two hours after he drew his last breath, I admired that fine face, noble and quiet; he seemed to be asleep. He was 83 years old, which is not a great age for astronomical longevity.¹⁵

As was customary at the period, photographs were taken showing Janssen on his deathbed. In the villa des Brillants at Meudon, there is also the mortuary photograph of Rodin, Janssen's neighbor, of whom it is difficult to believe that they had not occasionally met. They were, at least, both present at the Panthéon at the major celebration for the inauguration of the Foucault pendulum.¹⁶

"A slight cold, which degenerated into congestion," had carried off Janssen "with no suffering"¹⁷ on December 23, 1907, at half-past-four. Janssen thus departed on the day of the winter solstice; it was also the day of the funeral of Lord Kelvin, his friend Sir William Thomson.

¹⁵ Flammarion, Camille, in *Inauguration de la statue de Jules Janssen*, 31–3, p. 32.

¹⁶ La Cotardière, Philippe de, and Fuentes, Patrick, *Camille Flammarion*, Paris, Flammarion, 1994.

¹⁷ Bigourdan, Guillaume, "J. Janssen", *Bulletin astronomique*, **25** (1908) 49–58.



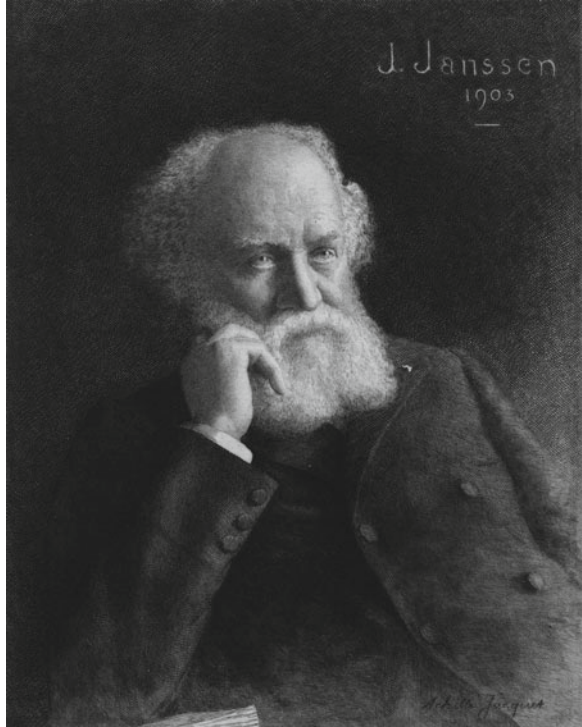
Fig. Epi.2 Scientia Conference dinner menu dedicated to Janssen in 1891. © Audouin Dollfus collection

Passing into the Land of Memory

On December 24, 1891, the 17th dinner of the Conférence Scientia was dedicated to Janssen. In his response to the speech by Gaston Tissandier in his honor, Janssen pronounced one of the beautiful sentences of which he was fond:

What more gentle reward, what demonstration that could go more directly to the heart of a studious man [could there be] than those marks of warmth and of esteem given by our peers, by those that follow the same career, devote themselves to the same studies, know the same joys and the same bitterness, and who are the most appropriate and unimpeachable judges to appreciate our work and our life? [...] This is a coin that may not consist of brilliant and resounding metal, but which is none the less solid, rare and precious. So, gentlemen, I am persuaded that, after our death, when it comes to crossing the river of forgetfulness,

Fig. Epi.3 *Jules Janssen in 1903. Copper engraving by Achille Jacquet. © Author's collection*



and to pay the ferryman who guides the boat leading to the land of memory, this is the only coin that will guarantee our passage.¹⁸

There can be no doubt that he was accorded passage to the land of memory without difficulty in 1907. Thank you, reader, for making sure that it remains there as long as human memory persists.

¹⁸Janssen, Jules, “Discours prononcé au dix-septième dîner de la Conférence Scientia le 24 décembre 1891”, in *Œuvres Scientifiques*, Vol. II, 253–9, p. 255.

Chronology

(*: astronomical observation or result, [Ⓜ]: invention, [☐]: observation of solar eclipse)

1824	22 February: birth of Pierre <i>Jules</i> César Janssen in Paris
1824	23 February: baptism at église Saint-Roch
1828	Birth of Philiberte <i>Henriette</i> Forestier in Paris
1832	Janssen is the victim of an accident (a fall) which leaves him lame
1835	Lives in rue des Vieux Augustins in Paris
1836	Lives (in Paris): rue de Londres, then rue de Bellefond, and then rue des Bons-Enfants
1836	First communion
1840	12 October: lives as 9, rue Rochechouart, in Paris
1840	12 October: enters the Banque Tharaud
1842–1844	Lives (in Paris), in rue Royale, at no. 10, and then at no. 14
1847	30 September: leaves the Banque Tharaud
1847	1 October: joins M. Boulet
1848	July: joins M. Lapelle
1849	13 January: baccalaureate of letters
1850	22 November: baccalaureate of mathematical sciences
1851	August: travels to London
1851	Follows courses at the Sorbonne
1852	31 July: licenciante in mathematical sciences
1853	January: supply teacher at Lycée Charlemagne; contacts with Le Verrier
1853	August-September: travels to Switzerland
1854	18 October: employed as tutor by M. Grandidier at Fleury-Mérogis
1855	24 November: licenciante in physical sciences
1856	Travels to Constantinople, Rhodes, Cyprus, Jerusalem, Alexandria, Cairo, Malta
1856	18 August: visits his uncle at Roanne
1857–1858	Voyage to South America with the Grandidier brothers
1859	1 January: proposes to Henriette Forestier
1859	From 1st April to 13 August: tutor to Henri Schneider, at Le Creusot
1859	19 September: marries Henriette Forestier in Paris

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1859	21 September: religious marriage at église Saint-Merry
1859	21 September: lives at 87, chaussée Clignancourt in Paris
1860	9 May: leaves again for Le Creusot
1860	25 May: death in Paris of his father Antoine César
1860	11 August: a girl is still-born
1860	17 August: doctorate in sciences
1861 [Ⓜ]	Constructs an ophthalmoscope with Dr. Follin, an ophthalmologist
1861	14 March: moves to 21 rue Labat, in Montmartre, with his wife and mother
1861	7 November: birth of his daughter Antoinette in Paris
1861	4 December: death of Mme Forestier, Henriette's mother
1862 [Ⓜ]	Devises several spectroscopes which he has built by Hofmann
1862*	19 October: expedition to Italy until April 25, 1863: Rome, Turin, Genoa, Florence
1862*	Demonstrates the terrestrial origin of dark irregular lines that he observes in the solar spectrum; proposes that these should be called " <i>telluric lines</i> "
1864*	Strasbourg, Geneva (first observations at altitude), Puy de Dôme
1865	August: Brittany
1866	Travels to England: London and Nottingham
1866	Receives part of the 1865 Bordin prize from the Académie des sciences
1866*	Studies the spectrum of water vapor in the laboratory (at the gasworks at La Villette)
1867 [□]	March: annular eclipse at Trani (Italy)
1867	April: travels to Greece and to the island of Santorini
1867	Devises the "brush thermometer"
1867*	May: travels to Palermo and to the summit of Etna; announces the presence of water vapor in the atmospheres of Mars and Saturn
1867	20 July: Lisbon
1867*	August, October: expedition to Spain: Madrid, Toledo, Burgos, Cordova
1868	7–12 June: London
1868	16 June: leaves for British India
1868 [□]	19 August: the day after the major total eclipse of the Sun that he had just observed at Guntoor, he demonstrated the possibility of observing the spectral lines of solar prominences outside eclipses
1868	28 October: appointed chevalier de la Légion d'honneur
1868*	December: spends 5 months in the Himalaya
1869	Receives the Lalande prize (increased fivefold) from the Académie des sciences
1869 [Ⓜ]	Describes the principle of the spectrohelioscope which enables monochromatic images of luminous bodies to be obtained
1869	Visits Pierrefonds with Viollet-le-Duc
1869	August: attends BAAS meeting at Exeter, with Henriette
1869	December: important meeting at the Ministry for Education
1869–1870	visits Victor Duruy; transports skulls to Quatrefages
1870	22 May: sees Delaunay: The Pavillon de Breteuil at Sèvres is placed at his disposal, and he stays there until 30 August
1870	17 July: in England

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1870	12 September: a girl is still-born
1870	16 November: sees Nadar at Auteuil
1870 [Ⓜ]	2 December: leaves besieged Paris by balloon to go to observe an eclipse in Algeria; during the flight, he invents the aeronautical compass, which determines direction and velocity of aerostats; during the course of the trip, he carries a verbal message to Gambetta at Tours
1871	6 January: death in Paris of his mother, Pauline Marie Lemoyne
1871	January–March: stays at Bordeaux to be near the seat of government
1871	15 May: given a mission to England
1871	17 July: London
1871	Made “Doctor of laws” at Edinburgh
1871 [□]	Returns to India to observe an eclipse, with a double refractor, aiming to study the solar corona
1872	Elected Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society
1872	August: meeting of the BAAS at Brighton
1872	September: meeting at Bordeaux
1873	August: Lyon, conference on the Sun
1873	September–October: Bradford, Newcastle, London, Greenwich where he meets Airy
1873	10 February: elected to the Académie des sciences
1873 [Ⓜ]	Conceives his “photographic revolver”, the precursor of the cinematographic camera, to observe the transit of Venus in 1874
1873	26 May: elected member of the Bureau des longitudes
1874	August: leaves for Japan
1874*	8 December: observes the transit of Venus from Japan
1875 [□]	From Japan, travels to Siam (now Thailand) to observe an eclipse
1875	26 June: returns from Siam
1875	24 August–10 September: England (Bristol, Oxford)
1875	Becomes foreign member of the Royal Society
1875	6 September: obtains the decree creating the “Observatoire d’Astronomie Physique de Paris”, of which he will be Director until his death
1875	October: stays with Labiche in Sologne
1876	28 May: visits la Malmaison with the architect Moyaux
1876	August: excursion to Royat and to Thiers
1876	13 October: settles in Meudon
1876	6 November: sees the optician Feil at rue Lebrun
1876	2 December: receives the Royal Society’s Rumford Medal
1877*	Begins routine photographic monitoring of the Sun at Meudon
1877	8 February: promoted to officer of the Légion d’honneur
1877*	Claims that “photography will soon be the actual retina of the scientist” (this expression is not published until 1882)
1878	26 May: David Gill visits Meudon
1878	16 December: photographs Paris under the snow from his kitchen at Meudon
1879	15 April: the law assigning the Meudon estate to the Observatory of Physical Astronomy is promulgated
1879	May: sits for Henner

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1879 [□]	19 July: observes an eclipse from Marseille
1879 [Ⓜ]	Conceives a special shutter (1/6,000 s) for solar photography
1879	21 September: makes a speech at the unveiling of a statue of Arago in Perpignan
1879	October–December: Estagel, Barcelona (visits the Library)
1880	September: takes the cure at Plombières
1881	4 January: Gambetta visits Meudon
1881	February: meeting at Alger
1881*	30 June: he is the first to photograph the whole of a comet
1881 [Ⓜ]	Invents the photographic photometer and the method of stellar circles
1881	September: visits the painter Jean-Jacques Henner at Bernwiller
1881	10 December: sits for the sculptor Paul Dubois
1882*	6 December: observes the transit of Venus from Oran (Algeria)
1883 [□]	6 May: observes an eclipse from Caroline Island (Oceania)
1883*	Tahiti, Hawaii; night observations at Kilauea crater
1883	San Francisco, Mormons, Colorado Springs, Chicago, Madison, Washington, Boston, New York
1883	12 September: travels in Germany and Austria (Stuttgart, Munich, Nuremberg, Salzburg)
1883	October: in England with Henriette and Antoinette
1884	28 March: Lockyer visits
1884	4 May: Tacchini visits Meudon
1884	3 August: sits for Henner; sees Redier about the “revolver”
1884	August: excursion to Annecy
1884	September: buys a plot at the Père-Lachaise cemetery
1884	October: leads the French delegation at the “Meridian Conference” at Washington; argues for a neutral meridian; travels to New York and Canada
1885	Decides to equip the Meudon Observatory with two large instruments, a double refractor with a focal length of 16 m, having a visual objective 83 cm in diameter (the largest in Europe and the third largest in the world) and a photographic objective, 62 cm in diameter, together with a reflector with an aperture of 1 m, working at $f/3$.
1885*	Carries out spectroscopy experiments at Meudon
1886	25 March: attends the marriage of the daughter of Charles Gounod
1886	September: Mont Dore [in the Auvergne]
1886	Has an apartment in Paris, 63 rue de Vaugirard
1887	Attends the Conference on the Carte du Ciel in Paris
1887*	Makes observations at the Pic du Midi
1887–1888	President of the Académie des sciences
1887	30 August: excursion to Le Brévent [a mountain in Haute-Savoie]
1888	29 January: visits the Eiffel Tower
1888*	12–16 October: ascends Grands-Mulets in a chair carried by porters
1888	14 November: inauguration of the Institut Pasteur
1888	3–21 September: BAAS meeting at Bath
1889	23 April: phonograph session at the Académie des sciences
1889	25 April: phonograph session at 63 rue de Vaugirard

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1889	27 April: phonograph session at the Académie des beaux-arts
1889	September: chairman of both Congrès International de photographie and Congrès de photographie céleste
1890*	March–May: spectroscopic work in Algeria (Biskra-Tuggurth, El Oued).
1890	August: Conference at Limoges
1890*	17–22 August: first ascent to the summit of Mont Blanc
1891	26 September: photograph taken by Tairraz from the summit of Le Brévent (a mountain in Haute-Savoie)
1891	31 March: opening of the Carte du Ciel Conference
1891	4 May: sits for Nadar
1891	25 August: photographic conference at Brussels
1892	February: sees the architect Vaudremer about the observatory for Mont Blanc
1892 ^m	Devises a correcting lens for keratoconus
1892	6 May: receives the medal from the Société française de photographie
1893	19 February: Lockyer dines at Meudon
1893	22 March: funeral of Jules Ferry
1893	4 May: visit by Eiffel
1893	28 June: Camille Saint-Saëns visits the Grande coupole and the telescope
1893	29 July: promoted to Commander of the Légion d'honneur
1893	11 August: Besançon
1893	Photographic conference at Geneva
1893*	8–12 September: second ascent of Mont Blanc where the observatory is opened
1893*	Experiments on Mont Blanc about the laws governing oxygen absorption
1893*	15 December: first observation (of the Pole Star) with the grande Lunette at Meudon
1894*	12 January: first observation of the Moon with the grande Lunette
1894	19 January: visits Jules Simon about the latter's eyes
1894	17 September: dines with Whymper at Chamonix
1894	28 November: funeral of Victor Duruy
1894	26 December: elected President of the Bureau des longitudes
1895*	Algeria, Barcelona, Madrid
1895*	28 September: third ascent to the summit of Mont Blanc
1895	22 October: Lockyer dines at Meudon
1895	27 October: Lord Kelvin dines at Meudon
1896	Roubaix, Rouen, Lille
1896	13 June: funeral of Jules Simon
1896	Chamonix, Annecy
1896	9 November: the Janssen Prize of the Académie des sciences is awarded to Deslandres
1897	January: Mulhouse
1897	June: Reims
1898	December: dines with Nadar
1899	May: conference at Rennes
1900	26 May: lecture at the Palais de l'Optique of the Paris Universal Exhibition
1900	23–28 July: photographic conference (at Meudon on 27th)

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1900	19 October: receives a visit from Deloncle about the Exhibiton's Great Refractor
1902	22 February: goes to the Panthéon for the ceremony marking the centenary of the birth of Victor Hugo
1902	5 May: meets the ophthalmologist Émile Javal, talka about keratoconus
1902	22 October: Foucault pendulum at the Panthéon
1903	17 July: Fécamp
1903	October: Florence and Milan; November: Rome, with Henriette et Antoinette
1903*	Publishes his <i>Atlas de photographies solaires</i> consisting of a selection of photographs taken at Meudon between 1876 and 1903, using a photohe-liograph that he had devised
1904*	Ascends Vesuvius in a sedan-chair
1905	Receives the "Progress Medal" from the Royal Photographic Society
1905 [□]	Goes to Spain to observe his last eclipse of the Sun
1907	May: presides at the Conference of the International Union for Cooperation for solar research
1907	23 December: decease at Meudon Observatory
1913	1 April: decease at Meudon of Henriette Janssen
1920	31 October: unveiling of his statue at Meudon
1924	27 February: decease of Antoinette Janssen at Meudon

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