

FOREWORD

The 1996 year was the first without sanctions against astronomy imposed in spite of all international covenants and agreements protecting the freedom of scientific communications, publication of scientific results without any discrimination and the dignity of science and scientific activities.

During 1996, 129 bibliographic items have been published, with 13 among them in international scientific journals of highest rank, 4 in books of international publishers, 17 in national scientific journals, 65 in contributed papers of international and national conferences, and 9 in circulars. Six invited lectures have been held by fellows of Astronomical observatory on international conferences and four on national. Two catalogues, one in Astronomy and Astrophysics Supplement Series and one in Bulletin Astronomique de Belgrade, as well as 2 review articles in international journals and 6 reviews and monographic texts in national publications have been published, and also, one M.Sc thesis. Zoran Knežević has been reviewer for Icarus for two papers, and for one article for Celestial Mechanics and Planetary and Space Science, and Slobodan Ninković for one paper for Celestial Mechanics.

Numbers 153 and 154 of the regular Observatory's publication BULLETIN ASTRONOMIQUE DE BELGRADE, as well as Nos. 51, 52, 53 and 54 of the PUBLICATIONS OF THE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY OF BELGRADE have been issued. These publications are regularly sent to 123 institutions and libraries in 43 countries and to 13 institutions and libraries within Yugoslavia.

Observatory's fellows have participated in works of 13 International conferences abroad (16 journeys by 8 fellows) and six conferences in Yugoslavia (49 journeys by 22 fellows).

Organized by the Observatory was:

1. II Yugoslav - Romanian round table on cooperation in astronomy, Belgrade, 8.10 1996

With the participation of Observatory were organized:

2. I Belorussian - Yugoslavian Symposium on Physics and Diagnostics of Laboratory and Astrophysical Plasma, Minsk, Belarus, 1-3.07 1996
3. XVIII Int. Symposium on the Physics of Ionized Gases (SPIG '96), Kotor, 2-6.09 1996

4. XI National Conference of Yugoslav Astronomers, Belgrade, 9-11.10 1996

Jointly with our colleagues from Study group for interdisciplinary archaeology of the Serbian Archaeological Society, an initiative group for the foundation of an archaeoastronomy team was formed 12 June 1996 (Milan S. Dimitrijević - president, Istvan Vince, Živko Mikić, Borislav Jovanović, Milorad Stojić, Andor Vince).

Besides the agreements on collaboration signed with observatories in Bucharest, Cluj and Timisoara (12 May 1995), observatory in Kazan, Department of Astronomy and Department of Optics and Spectroscopy of the Kazan State University (18 August 1995), Institute of Molecular and Atomic Physics (Minsk) of the Belarussian Academy of Sciences and Institute of Applied Physical Problems (Minsk), of the State University (15 September 1995), Crimean Astrophysical observatory (24 November 1995), observatory in Odessa (27 November 1995) and observatory of the Belarussian State University in Minsk (27 December 1995), new agreements on collaboration have been signed in the course of 1996 with Pulkovo Astronomical observatory - Kislovodsk Solar station and Institute of Applied physics of the Russian Academy of sciences, Nizhnij Novgorod. Apart from this, our Observatory's fellows have continued collaboration with their colleagues in Belgium, Brazil, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, North Ireland and Spain. New individual collaborations between our Observatory's fellows and their colleagues in Germany, Greece, Holland, Slovakia and Turkey have been maintained in the course of 1996.

Besides numerous newspaper articles and radio and TV emissions Observatory's fellows authored, they gave 35 lectures on astronomical subjects outside as well as inside our institution, contributing to the cultural life in our country.