

**RECONSTRUCTION OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE BIG COMET
C / 1769 P1 ON THE SKY OF NOVI SAD
(Petrovaradin Fortress) September 5th, 1769 at 03:30 pm
BASED ON THE WRITING OF J. RAJIĆ «ASTROLOGICAL
DESCRIPTION OF COMETS AND THEIR PROPERTIES», DRAWINGS
OF THE FAMOUS FRENCH ASTRONOMER CHARLES MESSIER and
ephemerides calculated by PC program "SkyTools 3 Professional Edition"**

Among the seventy of so-called "great comets" that were observed in history, a comet which appeared in 1769 has a significant place. In astronomical literature there are descriptions of this comet from many parts of the world, but it is little known that it was observed from Novi Sad by famous writer and historian Jovan Rajić (1728-1801). This paper will show Rajić's observation of this comet from Novi Sad from 24 August to 15 September 1769, as well as the comparison with observations from Paris, performed by the world famous astronomer Charles Messier (1730-1817), the best observer of the comets of all time. A reconstruction is given of the comet's movement in the sky above Novi Sad, done with the help of the appropriate software and based on the preserved comet drawings made by Ch. Messier. The reconstruction of the spectacular scene of a comet" with a large tail, in the sky above the Petrovaradin fortress and Fruška Gora on September 5, 1769 is presented as well.

Key words: Jovan Rajić, comet 1769 P1 (Messier), "Napoleon comet", Charles Messier, comets and floods, History of astronomy