

ALEKSANDAR TOMIĆ, 1947 – 2022.

Aleksandar Tomić, Serbian and Yugoslav scientist and popularizer of science, was born in Slavonska Požega in 1947. He finished high school in Bosanska Gradiška. He graduated from the Faculty of Science and Mathematics at the University of Belgrade in theoretical physics in 1973. and astronomy in 1975.

In 1973, he got a job at the "Rudjer Bošković" Astronomical Society as a lecturer in the Planetarium. In the Society, he dedicated himself to the popularization of astronomy by holding astronomy courses and conducting observational work at the People's Observatory. He gave thousands of lectures in the Planetarium and the People's Observatory. Tomić was the head of the People's Observatory and Planetarium from 1977-1991, and a member of the Editorial Board of VASIONA, Society's magazine, from 1974 to 2011. He was a technical editor for many years, and in 2005. and 2006, the editor-in-chief. Aleksandar was particularly involved in the work of the Yugoslav organization "Science for Youth" Movement. This essentially competitive organization, by preparing competitors in extracurricular work, spread scientific knowledge. The practical works of young people were especially appreciated. Informally, from 1975 to 1989, he was the head of the astronomical work of this organization in Yugoslavia and until 1996 in Serbia.

Since 1987, he has been a professor in four Belgrade high schools for 23 years. During that period, with a colleague from his studies and from the Society, Milan S. Dimitrijević, he published the high school textbook "Astronomy". The textbook had eight editions. Independently, in 2003 and 2005, the Republic Institute for Textbooks and Teaching Aids, published his two manuals for high school astronomical practice.

For about ten years, he collaborated with Dr. Djuro Koruga, a professor at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade, on the problems of nanogravity. So in 2009, they patented their well-known effective and non-invasive method of diagnosing melanoma skin cancer in the USA. In 2010, he defended his doctoral thesis in biomedical engineering at that faculty (*Investigation of bioregulatory processes of melanocytes and keratocytes using the Lagrangian on binding biomolecules*), where he got a job the same year. He was retired in 2012.

While teaching and popularizing physics and astronomy, he published over 160 works in the fields of astrophotography, ephemeris and meteor astronomy, cosmogony, solar physics (he defended his master's thesis), nanogravity, biophysics, philosophy and history of science.

He passed away in Belgrade in 2022.

Key words: Aleksandar Tomić, history of astronomy, Astronomical Society "Rudjer Bošković"