

IN MEMORIAM

ZVEREV MITROFAN STEPANOVICH

He was born on April 16, 1903 in Voronezh, died on November 17, 1991 at Pulkovo. He finished the Moscow Conservatory in 1929 and in 1931 he obtained the bachelor degree in astronomy at the Moscow University. Between 1931 and 1951 he was engaged as an astronomer at the State Astronomical Institute named after P. K. Shternberg. During the Second World War he was a responsible person of the Sverdlovsk Time-Service Institute which performed all necessary functions concerning the distribution of the accurate time to the front and throughout the Soviet State in general. Between 1948 and 1951 M. S. Zverev was a professor at the Moscow University; between 1951 and 1971 he was the deputy director at the Pulkovo Observatory. At the same time he was also a professor at the Leningrad University. He was elected as a corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in 1953. From 1970 till his death he was the chief of the chair of astrometry at the Leningrad University.

His scientific papers mainly concern the fundamental astrometry, the time and the study of variable stars. Prof. M. S. Zverev was fond of observations and he did it with love, in the Soviet Union, as well as in Chile. In the period 1921- -1939 he observed visually variable stars; in the beginning by using an ordinary field glass and from 1930 a refractor, $2r=18$ cm, which belonged to the Shternberg State Institute in Moscow. In the period 1932-1975 he took part in the meridian observations of international-programme stars in Moscow, Pulkovo and Santiago de Chile. He extended the ideas of N. I. Dneprevskij and B. P. Gerasimovich from the thirties. He became the leading person in the international cooperation for the compilation of the Catalogue of Faint Stars (CFS). He was the organiser and also the participant in the astronomical expeditions to Chile between 1962 and 1973. The observations of star positions in the southern hemisphere resulted in the compilations of a number of catalogues, among which was also the *Preliminary Fundamental Catalogue of Faint Stars* (together with D. D. Polozhentsev). He proposed a project for a new meridian instrument - photographic vertical circle with symmetrical construction which was used in high-accuracy determinations of declination. He studied the influence of the inclination calculation for the air layers of equal density on the astronomical refraction in details. His pedagogical activity was very intensive and also he devoted much of his time to the popularisation of astronomy.

He was the Chairman of the Astrometry Commission in the Astronomical Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences between 1951 and 1973, President of Commission 8 of the IAU between 1952 and 1958, President of the Leningrad District Society "Znanie" between 1956 and 1975. He was rewarded with V. I. Lenin and S. I. Vavilov medals.

Many of our astronomers (astrometrists) learnt of him, he was their teacher, friend, father. The Belgrade meridian circle has been developed under his supervision. By the last days of his life he collaborated with the Belgrade astrometrists which is seen from the notes on his desk found after his death. These notes indicate that he was an active supervisor to his "students" in Belgrade.

Let it be an eternal glory for him and gratitude for all what he did for astronomy, especially for us, his students, Yugoslav astronomers in Belgrade.

S. Sadžakov and M. Dačić