

LIFE AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY OF SOFIJA SADŽAKOV (1929-2009)

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SUMMARY: A short biography followed by the list of publications of Sofija Sadžakov (1929-2009), a distinguished Serbian astronomer whose main field was fundamental astrometry, is presented.

Key words. Obituaries, biographies

1. A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF SOFIJA SADŽAKOV

Sofija Sadžakov passed away on March 13, 2009.

She was born on June 30, 1929 in Sivac (West Bačka District, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Serbia) in the same settlement where her life ended. Her education also started in Sivac, to be continued in the nearby town of Sombor where Sofija Sadžakov attended the local Gymnasium. After having finished it, in 1950, she began her studies of mathematics and astronomy at the Faculty of Sciences of Belgrade University where she took degree in 1955.

In the period between 1955 and 1962 Sofija Sadžakov worked as a teacher in some secondary schools in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the institution where she spent most of her career, Astronomical Observatory in Belgrade, Sofija Sadžakov obtained a permanent position in 1962. This was the time when fundamental astrometry was started at the Belgrade Observatory. The Belgrade Observatory was then unique because only it, in the whole world, possessed three identical instruments (all of them used in fundamental astrometry): Large Transit Instrument, Large Vertical Circle, Large Meridian Circle. The last of the three was the instrument of Sofija Sadžakov; she worked with it most of her time spent at the Observatory and

achieved her best scientific results; only in the beginning, during a rather short time, Sofija Sadžakov was a member of another group (around Large Vertical Circle). The staff was organised in groups centred on instruments. The group using the Large Meridian Circle (LMC) was known as the Group of Relative Coordinates; Sofija Sadžakov was the head of this group for many years. She was an indefatigable observer. Therefore, it is not surprising that the activity of Sofija Sadžakov and her co-workers resulted in seven stellar catalogues. These catalogues gave an important contribution to astronomical science all over the world. Also with LMC day-light observations aimed at improving the reference-frame orientation were undertaken. These observations started in 1974, they included the Sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars (from 1981).

Sofija Sadžakov obtained the Msc degree at the Belgrade University in 1968. Her PhD she prepared at the famous Pulkovo Observatory under the supervision of well known specialists M. S. Zverev and A. A. Nemiro. The degree she obtained in Belgrade in 1977. In 1995, Sofija Sadžakov retired from the Belgrade Observatory as principal research fellow.

Sofija Sadžakov spent some time doing research at well known scientific institutions in Uccle (Belgium), Bordeaux (France), Moscow and Saint Petersburg (Russia).

Sofija Sadžakov did not forget teaching in primary and secondary schools (in the beginning of her career she was a teacher). She was one of the most active persons whose merit is that in 1968 astronomy as a separate subject was included in the teaching process in gymnasiums on the territory of Serbia (then federal unit of Yugoslavia). This, however, required a corresponding literature, the first textbook was a translation from Russian, the second one was a product of Serbian specialists. In both cases Sofija Sadžakov gave her contribution. One should not forget auxiliary literature, like atlases, sky maps, handbooks, etc. Sofija Sadžakov was active again, she was a co-author of a sky atlas and a handbook foreseen to be used by young contestants in activities in astronomy.

Sofija Sadžakov was a member of several scientific societies. The most important to say is that she was a member of the Organising Committee of IAU Commission 8 and President of the Society of Astronomers of Serbia between 1983 and 1985.

For her work Sofija Sadžakov was awarded. In 1977 her activity at the Pulkovo Observatory brought her a tribute from there, in 1990 she received the October Prize of the City of Belgrade (together with Miodrag Dačić) for the work on star catalogues and, in 2000, she received the Annual Prize of the Belgrade Observatory for her contribution to the development of that institution.

2. NOTES ON SOFIJA SADŽAKOV'S BIBLIOGRAPHY

A list of publications where Sofija Sadžakov appears as one of the authors is given below. As can be seen, this list contains a total of 138 publications. The list is formed without distinguishing types of publications. It mostly includes articles in scientific journals; it can be seen that among these journals are very prestigious ones such as "The Astronomical Journal", "Astronomy and Astrophysics Supplement Series", etc. However, in the list one also finds articles published in scientific meeting proceedings, technical papers, articles in popular journals and major publications like star catalogues (such cases are recognisable because the list then gives the volume number only), and books (textbook or handbook). Also, if there is any difference in data between the contents of a proceedings or a journal and the text itself, then in the list we accept what was written on the first page of the text. An example is the reference "Radovi na meridijanskom krugu Astronomske opservatorije u Beogradu" from 1989, where in the Table of Contents one finds the name of M. Dačić mentioned as a coauthor, but inside the book one finds the name Sadžakov only. For this reason in the list below (No 87) S. Sadžakov appears as the sole author. In the cases of papers written in Russian the names of the Serbian authors are given in Latin transcription for that language, for instance, Sadzhakov(a), Dachich, etc.

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ЖИВОТ И НАУЧНА АКТИВНОСТ СОФИЈЕ САЦАКОВ (1929-2009)

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Некролог

Излаже се кратка биографија праћена списком објављених радова за Софију Садаков (1929-2009), истакнутог српског астронома чија је главна област истраживања била фундаментална астрометрија.