

OBITUARY PROF. DR BRANISLAV ŠEVARLIĆ



It is a well known fact that "A man is worth as much as are the traces he left behind himself". This saying is proved true concerning Prof. Dr Ševarlić. He worked much, put much down in writing, he taught and instructed many, so that he will remain in lasting memory alike of those who knew him and listened to him and of those who acquainted him through his books and writings.

He was born on June 28, 1914, on the day so well known to all of us from the history, in Belgrade. He completed his primary and secondary education with top marks in his birthtown. In 1936 he graduated, again with distinction, from the Faculty of Philosophy of the Belgrade University, Group for: A – Theoretical Mathematics, B – Rational Mechanics, Celestial Mechanics and C – Astronomy. In 1937 he joined the Belgrade Astronomical Observatory as an astronomical observer. In the following year he was elected assistant for Astronomy at the Faculty of Phi-

losophy in Belgrade. In 1948 he became a lecturer, in 1953 an assistant professor, in 1957 an associated professor and in 1961 a full professor for the Geodetic Positional Astronomy at the Geodetic Department of the Faculty Civil Engineering of the Belgrade University. In 1962 he was elected full professor of Astronomy at the Faculty of Sciences in Belgrade. It is from this function that he went into well deserved retirement. However, this did not mean any hindrance to him to continue his collaboration at the Faculty of Sciences and at the Astronomical Observatory in Belgrade, one way or another, in teaching and researching up to his last days.

In 1960 he defended his doctoral dissertation "A Contribution to the Investigation of Belgrade Latitude Variations".

As a research fellow he collaborated at the Belgrade Observatory up to 1972. He is one of the founders of the Time Service, Minor Planets Service, Latitude Service, the latter having been admitted in 1956 into the International Polar Motion Service. He took part in the investigation of astronomical instruments and researches in the atmospheric influences. He introduced at the Civil Engineering Faculty the subjects: Geodetic Astronomy and Instruments.

He has been the mentor for numerous doctoral dissertations and diploma works.

On the whole, the activity of Prof. Dr Ševarlić might be divided into three areas: 1) Research work (monographs, papers, communications, bibliographies, terminology); 2) Teaching (methods, faculty and high school textbooks); 3) Popularization (lectures, books and articles).

To this must be added his editorial activity in periodicals (scientific and popular publications).

A cursory look at his bibliography shows that he occupied himself with studying: orbits, meridian observations, minor planets and comets motion, longitude of the Belgrade Observatory, zenith series, occultations, Earth's poles motion, errors (deviations) of measurements, parallaxes of stars, declination of stars, wind effects on observations, anomalous refraction, application of photography in astronomy, bibliographies, history of Astronomy, methods of teaching Astronomy etc.

On March 28, 1984, the Professor's 70th birthday was solemnly celebrated at the Belgrade Observatory, Dr Djordje Teleki having on that occasion, given among other things, a review of his life and work.

On the 109th anniversary of Belgrade Observatory's foundation, which took place on April 5, 1996, according to a decision of the Observatory's

Scientific Council, Prof. Dr Branislav M. Ševarlić was awarded the prize as a meritorious collaborator in founding and guidance of the Group for Latitude Variations and for the contribution to the development of the Time Service and the Relative Coordinates Service.

He passed away on March 11, 2001 and was buried in Belgrade.

B. Jovanović