

Galactic Astronomy

OUR GALAXY

Selected Contributions

PREFACE

This volume contains Proceedings of the Conference "Our Galaxy" held in March 1996 at Sternberg Astronomical Institute in Moscow. It was dedicated to the memory of two outstanding Soviet astronomers, P. P. Parenago (1906-1960) and D. Ya. Martynov (1906-1989).

Professor of Moscow University, Corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, P. P. Parenago was the founder of Moscow stellar astronomy school, organizer of Stellar Astronomy Chair at the Astronomical Department of Moscow University which was headed by him until his untimely death. His main studies were devoted to variable stars, Galactic structure and kinematics, interstellar absorption of light (Parenago's formula is well known), stellar dynamics. He was the author of the textbook "Stellar Astronomy", the first one of its kind in the world literature; the book gained recognition in the USSR and abroad. He was also one of the authors of the General Catalogue of Variable Stars and of the monograph "Variable Stars" (Vols. 1-3, 1937-1947).

D. Ya. Martynov, Professor of Moscow University, was the Director of Sternberg Astronomical Institute in 1956-1976, he headed the Chair of Astrophysics of the University. He was the author of textbooks on General Astrophysics and Practical Astrophysics. His principal scientific investigations were devoted to planetary astronomy and to variable stars, especially to close binary systems; he was a successful observer of such stars and was engaged in theoretical interpretation, thus founding new approaches to studies of close binaries.

Many disciples and colleagues of P. P. Parenago and D. Ya. Martynov, who are now continuing their line of research with success, took part in the meeting. Their reminiscences will be published in Russian, in a special issue of Sternberg Institute Trudy.

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