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Editorial

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Archeoastronomy and History of Astronomy

EDITORIAL

The first national session on archaeoastronomy was held as part of the astronomical science memorial conference "Our Galaxy" (28-30th March, 1996) which was devoted to the memory of the Russian astronomers D. Ja. Martynov and P. P. Parenago.

The Euroasian Astronomical Society (EAAS) was one of the organisers of this meeting and also supports research of Russian astronomers in all aspects of archaeoastronomy. Ancient astronomy ("palaeoastronomy" or "archaeoastronomy") is the name of this new science which has not, until recently, been defined precisely in Russia. It was first described (1950-1963) in recent works of the British astronomer G. Hawkins who has reported some important achievements connected with contemporary astronomy which were previously unknown.

Today it is absolutely clear that modern archaeoastronomy is an interdisciplinary science depending on the effort and collaboration of the researchers in natural sciences and the humanities. Historians, archaeologists and philologists were invited to participate in this session which was the first step towards interdisciplinary cooperation in archaeoastronomy in Russia today.

Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions is the journal of EAAS and aims at maintain and continue the development of archaeoastronomy and communication between astronomers and their colleagues in the humanities in their common fields of research, *Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions* introduces a new form of publication of archaeoastronomical reseach - a special issue or section of the issue devoted to archaeoastronomy. We hope that it will be useful addition and resource to researchers studies in astronomy and archaeoastronomy.

This special issue contains six or seven papers which were included in the programme of the first national session on archaeoastronomy in Russia.

E. N. Kaurov