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### Editorial

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## *Archaeoastronomy: the Problems of Being*

### EDITORIAL

The first National conference of archaeoastronomy was held on 15–18 October, 1996 at the Institute of Archaeology (IA) RAS. The idea of this form of interdisciplinary cooperation was discussed at the interdisciplinary meeting (30th March, 1996), which took place after the first national session on archaeoastronomy (State Astronomical Institute (SAI) of MGU, 30th March, 1996; for the material of this session see *Astron. Astrophys. Trans.*, 1996, Vol. 15, special issue on the conference 'Our Galaxy').

The first national conference on archaeoastronomy, 'Archaeoastronomy: the problems of being' was organized by IA RAS. This conference was sponsored by RFBR. One of the members of the organizing committee (OC) was E. N. Kaurov (EAAS).

The OC declared six topics of the conference:

1. Archaeoastronomical memories with astronomical orientiers: types, forms and functional aims.
2. History of research of archaeoastronomy objects.
3. Applications of the methods of astronomy, astrometry and selection mechanics in archaeoastronomy.
4. Astronomical knowledge and rites in antiquity in the light of the archaeological, ethnographical data and data of mythology.
5. The model of the ancient world outlook: sources, forms and transformation.
6. Ancient ornaments in the archaeoastronomical aspect.

The talks and the poster papers (in all 48 items of the 53 authors) were published in the summary at the beginning of the conference. The summary presented all of the six declared topics.

The conference was successful. Astronomical research in archaeoastronomy was presented at the conference by V. N. Obridko *et al.*, (IZMIRAN), D. D. Polojenzev (GAO), J. A. Nagovizin (GAO), V. A. Jurevich ('Earth and Universe' magazine), E. N. Kaurov (EAAS) and others.

The experience of organizing the first national conference on archaeoastronomy was used by the organization of the conference 'Palaeoastronomy: Sky and Mankind' (19–24 November 1997, SAI MGU).

In this issue we present the materials of some ordinary papers of the conference ‘Archaeoastronomy: the problems of being’.

Before this issue *Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions* also published the papers by V. N. Obridko *et al.*, (*Astron. Astrophys. Trans.* Vol. 17, 29, 1998).

The scientific results of this conference were reported briefly in *Russian Archaeology*, 1998, 1, 230–238 (a science magazine in Russian).

Two papers on archaeoastronomy are also published in this special issue (G. E. Kurtik and A. V. Kuzmin); there were discussed at the science seminars after the conference.

*E. N. Kaurov*