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Astronomical & Astrophysical Transactions

The Journal of the Eurasian Astronomical Society

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713453505>

Preface

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Online Publication Date: 01 August 1999

To cite this Article: Bochkarev, N. G. (1999) 'Preface', *Astronomical & Astrophysical Transactions*, 18:1, 1 - 3

To link to this article: DOI: 10.1080/10556799908203027

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10556799908203027>

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THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Current Problems in Astrophysics

dedicated to the memory of three distinguished astrophysicists
Professor S. A. Kaplan, Professor S. B. Pikelner, Professor I. S. Shklovsky

PREFACE

The International Scientific Meeting *Current Problems in Astrophysics* which was held in Moscow on September 23–28, 1996, was organized by Astro–Space Center of Lebedev Physical Institute of RAS, Sternberg Astronomical Institute of Moscow State University (MSU), and Euro–Asian Astronomical Society. The Meeting was dedicated to the memory of three distinguished Soviet astrophysicists Professor S. A. Kaplan (on the anniversary of his 75 birthday), Professor S. B. Pikelner (on the anniversary of his 75th birthday), and Professor I. S. Shklovsky (on the anniversary of his 80th birthday).

The conference took place in M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, where Professor S. B. Pikelner and Professor I. S. Shklovsky had worked, and was opened by the Rector of MSU Professor V. A. Sadovnichy (Figure 1). About 200 scientists from Russia, from many of the New Independent States, from Denmark, Germany, Israel, United States, and Yugoslavia participated in the conference. The topics discussed covered all of the research areas associated with the work of these three scientists.

The scientific programme of the first day was dedicated to the Galaxy, extra-galactic astronomy and cosmology. The session began with the talk “The Disk Accretion on Supermassive Black Holes” by I. D. Novikov, followed by the presentation given by N. S. Kardashev and entitled “The Galaxy Central Engine Structure”. There were numerous contributions to this session and we should mention the talks “Non-ionized galactic halo” by G. Westvalen, and “Double Radio-galaxies: Results of their merging” by B. Burke. A detailed review of poster contributions was made at the end of every session of the program. The poster contributions to Section 1 were reviewed by Professor A. D. Chernin.

The programme also included sessions on Supernovae, Supernovae remnants, Interstellar medium, including its radiospectroscopy, the Sun. The last session was dedicated to stars and opened with presentations by Professor A. A. Boyarchuk *et al.* “Close binary systems”; Professor V. M. Lipunov *et al.*: “Birth, Live and Death of the Pulsars”; V. G. Kurt *et al.* “Investigations of the surface of Neutron Stars”.



Figure 1 The Lomonosov University Rector Prof. V. A. Sadovnichy opening the conference.

Among other presentations we should mention these reviews “The Mass of the Black Holes in X-ray Binaries” by Professor A. M. Cherepashchuk, “Star and Planets” by A. V. Tutukov, and “On the nature of Gamma–bursts” by I. L. Rosental.

Many people shared their recollections of S. A. Kaplan, S. B. Pikelner, and I. S. Shklovsky, with the audience at a special memorial session. During the conference period the participants visited the graves of I. S. Shklovsky and S. B. Pikelner at Vostryakovo Cemetery in Moscow.

Each contributor had the opportunity to present the contributed paper for publication in one of the three publications: *Astrophysics and Space Science* (v. 252, 1997); *Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions* (this volume); *Transactions of Sternberg Astronomical Institute* (in Russian, in press).

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