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PALAEOASTRONOMY: SKY AND MANKIND

EDITORIAL

The Conference 'Palaeoastronomy: Sky and Mankind' (November 19–24, 1997, Sternberg Astronomical Institute (SAI) of Moscow University) was held as associated meeting of the IV convention of the Euroasian Astronomical Society (EAAS) (November, 19–29). The conference was organized by the Interdisciplinary Program and Coordination Commission (IPCC), that worked out the recommendations for interscience cooperation and mutual interference of the different science disciplines. (There were 8 members of IPCC, including the coordinator of IPCC – E.N. Kaurov (EAAS)). The conference was divided into five topical session and ended with a general round table discussion (GRTD). Nearly 50 scholars took part in this meetings by means of various ways; accepted abstracts and presented or/and published paper.

The opening ceremony of the conference started in the conference hall of the SAI by short greetings of Co-chairmen of EAAS N.G. Bochkarev (member of IPCC), and A.M. Cherepaschuk (director of SAI). The following papers were read during the conference: *At morning* part of first session 'SETI and ancient civilizations' (Chair V.I. Slysh – member of IPCC): N.S. Kardashev (Moscow, further – M) – SETI and cosmology; V.I. Slysh (M) – The formation of the planetary system as a condition of the development of civilizations; L.M. Gindilis (M) – SETI. Technical and humanitarian aspects; A.M. Karapetyants (Member of IPCC, M) – The problem of decoding an information code of the proto-Chinese civilization. *The evening* part of first session (Chair D.S. Raevsky – member of IPCC): G.M. Idlis (M) – Universality of space civilizations and Indispensable universality of Anthropic Principle in Cosmology; V.V. Kazyutinsky (M) – Epistemological base of change of the meaning information between space civilizations; I.C. Lisevich (M) – The ancient Chinese ideas about space creation.

At the second session 'Archaeoastronomy' (Chair T.M. Potemkina – member of IPCC): T.M. Potemkina (M) – Archaeoastronomy in Russia: achievements, problems and perspectives from the standpoint of archaeology; M.G. Gusakov (M) – Orientation of cemeteries in the light of archaeoastronomy (from the Aeneolithic to the Early Middle Ages); L.S. Marsadolov (St. Petersburg) – Archaeological research of sites VIII–VII BC; N.M. Bechassar (Alma-Ata) – Astronomical aspects of the barrows with moustache (Early Iron Age); P.M. Geruni (Erevan) – Armenian Stonehenge; V.A. Jurevich (M) – Archaeoastronomical sites of Mesoamerica; E.N. Kaurov (M) – Astronomical base of the space orientation of the Moustierian cemeteries. *A third session* 'Ancient Sun and Man' (Chair V.N. Obridko – member

of IPCC); T.K. Breus and V.N. Obridko (M) – Some aspects of the connection between the man's ecology and the solar activity; Yu.S. Hudyakov (Novosibirsk) – Perspectives of the creation of data base for earth catastrophes of the cosmic origin; V.A. Dergachev (St. Petersburg) and V.F. Chistyakov (Ussuriysk) – Global sun and climatic cycle and their influence on the peoples' life; G.V. Kuklin (Novosibirsk) – Possibilities of a reconstruction of the characteristics of the solar and geophysics activity.

At the fourth session 'Ethnoastronomy' (Chair in the morning meeting E.N. Kaurov) – E.N. Kaurov (M). An archaic system of the astronomical observations and circumpolar constellations. Yu.W. Chaykovsky (M) – Astronomy of Thales in historical context; S.V. Zhitomirskiy – Mythological roots of spherical astronomy and Phenomena of Aratus; I.A. Svyatopolk-Chetvertynskiy (M) – The establishment of the monthly lunar cycle according to Sumerian and Babilonian traditions (the text STC, II, 49); G.E. Kurtik (M) – Astral symbolism in ancient Mesopotamia in the III-rd Millennium BC. *At the evening of the fourth session* (Chair Yu.N. Efremov): Yu.N. Efremov and Yu.A. Zavenygin (M) – Problems of dating of Almagest; G.G. Ershova (M) – Comets and meteors in the beliefs of ancient Maya; A.K. Dambis (M) – Making Almagest more precise by the stars' own movements; A.V. Kuzmin (M) – Problems of the ancient Egypt calendar.

At the fifth session 'History of Astronomy in Culture History' (Chair – V.V. Kazyutinsky): V.V. Kazyutinsky (M) – Copernican revolution and the change of traditions; N.M. Bekbassar – The folk astronomy in Kazakstan; R.V. Bagdasarov (M) – Symbolics of the constellations of Sagittarius and Centaurus in Russian traditional culture; L.L. Kophanov (M) – A starry sky in the Roman augural law; I.M. Denisova (M) – Archaic cosmology ideas in Russian folkart; L.A. Tultseva (M) – Sun and astral characteristics of man in Russian folklore and folk ideas.

The conference papers of Bagdasarov, Denisova, Ershova, Idlis and Kaurov were included in this special issue. The conference was supported by Soros Foundation (No. H2H749) and Federal Program 'Astronomy'.

E. N. KAUROV