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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

In spring 1990 in the Soviet Union, the Soviet Astronomical Society (SAS) was founded as an independent creative association of astronomers from various fields of astronomy and astrophysics, university lecturers and those working in astronomical instrumentation. The formation of our Society is in a definite sense a re-creation of professional astronomical societies. These societies operated in Russia from the end of the last century until the beginning of the 1930's, when the majority of society organizations in the USSR were forced to cease their activity. SAS is open for foreign scientists and already involves, besides about 400 Soviet astronomers, members from other countries.

The main purpose of SAS is to maintain the development of astronomy and to reinforce the communications between Soviet astronomers and their colleagues all over the world. It was suggested by SAS, and considered by Gordon and Breach Scientific Publishers, to create a new international astronomical journal. Having a cordial agreement with Gordon and Breach Publishers, and cooperating with the Overseas Publishers Association, we open the new journal and present the first issue of the *Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions* (AApTr) to the trial of the world astronomical society.

AApTr intends to realize rapid publication of materials from all modern and classical fields of astronomy and astrophysics. We will also include astronomical instrumentation and adjacent fundamental sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry and so forth) connected with astronomical problems. The journal is open, and free of page charge, for authors all over the world. All materials delivered to the journal will be considered by referees. At first the referees will be mainly from the Soviet Union. In the future, we will organize an international inspection of papers.

AApTr will publish the following types of papers:

- 1) the results of original investigations, including normal-length papers, short notes in a Letter form, as well as detailed papers that may include many tables and drawings, in a Supplement form.
- 2) scientific reviews.
- 3) short news, similar for example, to notes in *Bulletin of American Astronomical Society* that describe the results of the author's recent investigations.

Some issues of the journal will involve publication of scientific conference transactions. For example, this year the editorial board intends to publish the papers of the conference "Astrophysics Today" (Nizhnij Novgorod, previously Gorki, 25–29 March 1991) dedicated to the 70th anniversaries of S. A. Kaplan and S. P. Pikel'ner. In order to maintain the scientific level of publications, the conference material will be inspected by referees. For publication, the papers must be clear and have high scientific level.

A small part of each volume will be occupied by book reviews, short

information about past and future conferences, information concerning astronomical institutions, and astronomical instrumentation advertisements.

The number of pages per issue is limited to about 80. The issues will be published according to the flow of accepted papers. It will be published not less than four times a year. This year, judging by the number of submitted papers, we can already prepare 4 issues for publication.

The journal's aim, primarily is the rapid publication of the results of astronomical investigations produced in the Soviet Union and, partly, in Eastern Europe. Therefore, initially the journal will contain mainly papers by Soviet authors. The Soviet authors are in close contact with the current editorial board. International advisory editors will stimulate the journal. They will initiate the authors in delivering papers to the journal, especially short news, and give their proposals concerning reviews and other papers. There are already editors, not only in the USSR but also in Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany and Romania. We hope that in future this list will be considerably enlarged.

We invite all interested persons to collaborate with us and to take part in the growth of this journal.

Nikolai G. Bochkarev