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#### Dmitry Yakovlevich Martynov (1906-1989) Close binary stars in modern astrophysics (22-24 May 2006)

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## PREFACE

### **Dmitry Yakovlevich Martynov (1906–1989) Close binary stars in modern astrophysics (22–24 May 2006)**

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This issue is dedicated to the proceedings of the conference held at the Sternberg Astronomical Institute (Moscow, Russia) from 22 to 24 May 2006 to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of Professor Dmitry Yakovlevich Martynov, a famous Soviet astronomer and founder of the Russian school of close binary systems, who was born on 7 April 1906 (Gregorian calendar) in Crimea. He was a great enthusiast about astronomy and started his own observations of the sky as an amateur at a young age. In 1926, Dmitry Yakovlevich Martynov graduated from Kazan University. At the age of 25 he became the Director of the Engelgardt Astronomical Observatory and then, in 1938, the Head of the Department of Astrophysics of Kazan University. In 1943, he received the degree of Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. From 1951 to 1954, Martynov was the Rector of Kazan University. In 1956 he became the Director of the Sternberg Astronomical Institute of Moscow University and the Head of the Department of Astrophysics of Moscow University and stayed on in this post up to 1976.

Martynov was a great scientist and organizer of science as well as a talented teacher. He was the supervisor of several dozens of PhD and DSc students in astronomy. He wrote the famous books *Experimental Astrophysics* and *General Astrophysics* which are well known to many generations of students. In 1986, Martynov was awarded the Bredikhin Prize of the Academy of Sciences of USSR.

The scientific interests of Martynov were very broad: from stellar astrophysics to planetary physics. Together with B.V. Kukarkin, P.P. Parenago and V.P. Tsessevich, D.Ya. Martynov initiated the edition in 1937–1947 of the first volume of the USSR three-volume monograph *Variable Stars*. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Astronomical Circular* from 1941 to 1962. The most important results were obtained by Martynov in the field of close binary stars. After the discovery of X-ray binary systems at the beginning of the 1970s, these studies became one of the key fields in astrophysics.

Martynov published the period–spectral class diagram for close binary systems; he discovered and studied effects of non-stationarity and mass transfer in several eclipsing binaries.

These pioneering studies by Martynov, which were carried out in 1937–1955, have been important for the modern theory of evolution of close binaries with mass exchange. He investigated the ellipticity and reflection effects in close binaries, which are important for the interpretation of optical appearances of X-ray binary systems.

In 1929, together with A.D. Dubyago, D.Ya. Martynov discovered an apsidal motion in the eclipsing binary RU Mon and estimated the density distribution in the stellar interiors of the components. Analysis of periodic inequalities at the minima of eclipsing variable stars was one of the most important parts of the scientific activity of Martynov. Together with his postgraduate student Kh.F. Khaliullin, D.Ya. Martynov investigated not only classical but also relativistic apsidal motion in close binaries.

The pedagogical activity of Professor Martynov began in Kazan where he gave lectures in astronomy at both Kazan University and the Pedagogical Institute. These lectures attracted students because they were based on an extensive and deep scientific knowledge combined with a bright and vivid presentation. As the Head of the Department, he gave lecture courses in practical and general astrophysics. Based on these lectures, later he wrote two remarkable textbooks for students: *Practical Astrophysics* and *General Astrophysics*.

As the Director of the Sternberg Astronomical Institute, Martynov greatly contributed to the development of the Institute. During his directorship and under his direct supervision, several observatories were constructed: the Crimean Station of the Sternberg Astronomical Institute, the Tan-Shan Observatory near Alma-Ata, and the Maidanak Observatory in Uzbekistan. Martynov inspired a new direction in practical astrophysics, namely the study of the absolute energy distribution in stellar spectra, which has both fundamental and practical importance. During Martynov's directorship, the Sternberg Astronomical Institute became a world-famous astronomical centre and the leading astronomical institute in the former USSR. Martynov was elected a member of many scientific societies, including the International Astronomical Union, where he headed several commissions for a long time, and the Royal Astronomical Society. For more than 20 years he was the Chairman of the Bureau of Astronomical Communications of the Astronomical Council of the USSR.

D.Ya. Martynov continued scientific research activity to the end of his life. He died on 22 October 1989 at the age of 83.



The participants of the Conference on 100th Anniversary of Sternberg Astronomical Institute's Director Dmitry Martynov.