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Review of main and attached events

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JENAM-2000

REVIEW OF MAIN AND ATTACHED EVENTS

The 9th European Astronomical Society (EAS) General Assembly, held jointly with the 5th Euro-Asian Astronomical Society (EAAS) Annual Meeting took place in Moscow on May 29 – June 3, 2000. A large number of scientific events were held in the framework of the program. In particular, at the beginning of 2000 the European Society for Astronomy in Culture (SEAC) addressed the Meeting Organizing Committee suggesting its annual scientific Meeting be held jointly with the Symposium on the Astronomy of Ancient Civilizations associated to JENAM-2000.

EAAS is experienced in holding scientific conferences, mostly international – consistent with the Society status, sometimes gathering up to 400 participants, but JENAM-2000 was really an extraordinary undertaking: never since the IAU General Assembly held in Moscow in 1958 had the Russian astronomical community received such a prominent, international assembly. So all the astronomical institutes and government institutions of Russia gave their assistance in preparing the convention. On EAAS initiative, the JENAM structure was reorganized towards a greater similarity to that of International Astronomical Union General Assemblies: a joint discussion and associated interdisciplinary events were introduced, as well as long distance excursions.

JENAM-2000 was hosted by the Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU), so nicely portrayed on the posters and the Abstract Book cover. The halls and lecture-rooms of MSU welcomed the participants of JENAM plenary sessions, sections, joint discussions and associated symposia and colloquia. Registration and a number of sessions took place in the building of the Sternberg Astronomical Institute (SAI) of MSU.

Due to unusual date of this JENAM, the LOC and SOC had rather limited time for their organizational work. However, the electronic registration system was developed quickly. This was only the second case of electronic registration to a JENAM, and quite new to many people. Probably, this explains why more than 500 participants had problems with early registration.

Thanks to the generous contributions of several institutions, (Moscow State University, the Russian Ministry of Science and Technologies, the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), INTAS, EAS, EAAS, and 7 commercial companies, the input of which was not large but important in the sense of creating a precedent – or, at least, so we hope) the Local Organizing Committee could offer many varied grants and partially reimburse the registration fee to most participants.

S.M. Ponomarev from Nizhny Novgorod, (Russia) commented on aspects of astronomy education at Nizhniy Novgorod Pedagogical University. M. Mamadazimov, B. Kenjayev Karshi from Tashkent, (Uzbekistan) discussed some contents of integral physics and astronomy textbooks for secondary school. I. Sattarov and M. Mamadazimov from Tashkent (Uzbekistan) gave an oral presentation on the training of astronomy teachers in Uzbekistan. A. Yazev (Irkutsk, Russia) dealt with astronomy education and the myths of the 20th century. The current Russian system of school astronomy education and also the astronomy-related myths existing on a mass scale were briefly considered. These myths include astrology, ufology, ideas regarding life on other planets, the appearance of aliens, the sphinx on Mars, etc. which are taken in the mythological context.

E.V. Kononovich from Moscow (Russia) presented some aspects on teaching aids in Russian astronomy education. In spite of serious financial difficulties, astronomy publications appear more or less regularly in Russia. M.B.Ignatiev from St.Petersburg, (Russia) and G.I. Pinigin from Nikolaev, (Ukraine) considered astronomy education in the St.Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation.

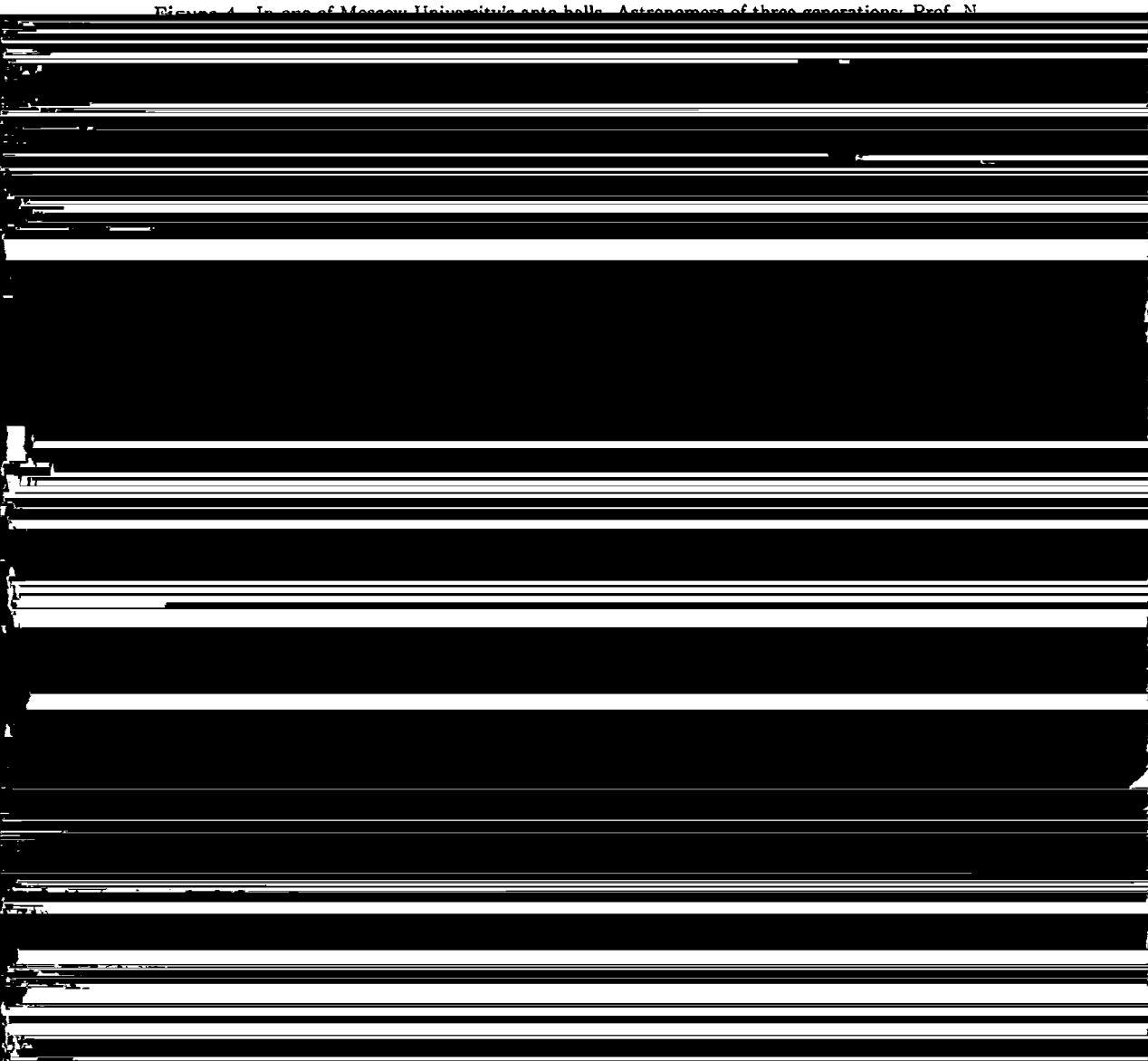
Astronomy Olympiads

R.T. Sotnikova and S.A. Yazev from Irkutsk (Russia) introduced the first Astronomy Olympiads in the Irkutsk region. They analysed the results of the first two astronomy competitions (on the city and regional level) held in Irkutsk (December 1999 – January 2000). It was shown that judging by the outcome of these competitions the overall standard of astronomy teaching is very low in Irkutsk.

M.G. Gavrilov (Moscow, Russia) presented the results of the International Astronomy Olympiads. M.G. Gavrilov, and Chentsov (Moscow, Russia) commented on the autumn astronomy schools for Olympiad winners.

CONNECTED COLLOQUIUM 2. THE IMPACT OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASTRONOMY IN EUROPE

(Conveners: N. Bochkarev, F. Praderie, and J.-P. Zahn.
SOC members: M. Kontizas, P. Murdin, V. Obridko, I. Pustylnik, L. Woltjer)

The goal of the colloquium was to consider the experience of astronomical and several interdisciplinary professional non-profit non-governmental scientific societies acting for support, development and planning of astronomical (basic science) facilities, publications, the preparation of young generation of astronomers (scientists), and the popularization of astronomy (science). There were 3 half-day long sessions in the afternoons of June 2 and 3 and the morning of Sunday June 4.

1. Scientific societies and state authorities: