

## FOREWORD

Has passed 125 years, as in Odessa on August 3, 1871 of old style a special commission of Novorossiisk (at present Odessa) University has opened the Astronomical Observatory. Its creation was headed by the head of the Astronomy chair L.F.Berkevich. The Observatory was under construction for money, allocated by state and urban authorities. The General city Council, worrying about development of education, science and culture, has considered for debt to co-citizens to present to the Observatory a a place and buildings on it, as well as to allocate for the construction of the observatory significant money resources.

To the present time the Astronomical observatory has become the largest University Observatory of the Ukraine. It, except the main base in the park named after T.G.Shevchenko, has two sub-urban stations in a villages of Kryzhanovka and Mayaki and three mountain stations in Armenia, Turkmenia and Northern Caucasus. In the observatory, which has a Status of the scientific research institute, work about 150 persons. Its scientific researches have all attributes of scientific discoveries, and it has given to the Observatory a wide popularity in the scientific world. Contribution to a world science by the astronomers of Odessa was awarded by the assignment of a name "Odessa" to one of the recently discovered asteroids (No. 2606).

The anniversary our observatory is celebrated by the International Jubilleum Scientific Conference "Contemporary problems of Astronomy", which was held on September 2-6, 1996. The scientists from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Estonia, Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Czechia, Yugoslavia, France, Germany, Switzerland, USA and other countries have presented 32 plenary and 180 oral and poster reports. The participants of the conference worked in 12 sections on different astronomical topics. In the morning the sessions were plenary and contained the reviews by the leading astronomers of the world.

The plenary meeting devoted to the anniversary was held on September 2 in the Large Physical Auditory of the Odessa State University. Besides the official reports, a talk was presented, during which the Certificates were awarded with the assignment of names of the Odessa scientists to recently discovered small planets. In this connection it is pleasantly to note, that in the asteroid belt of the Solar system, seven small planets are moving, which are named after Odessa scientists. The message on new assignments is made by the representative of the International Committee on the naming of the newly discovered celestial bodies, the representative of the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory, N.S.Chernykh.

The present volume 9 of the "Odessa Astronomical Publications" contains 101 scientific articles, prepared by 176 authors on materials of their scientific talks and posters presented to our Jubilee conference. Unfortunately not all contributions presented at the conference, were given to us for publication in this volume. However, many of them are published in other periodic astronomical editions and have become a property of a scientific public. Thus, it is possible to believe, that the main aims of our conference - the help in discussion of recent scientific results and their publication are executed.