TSESEVICH AND KRAKOW'S ASTRONOMERS

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ABSTRACT. In the paper I present some aspects of collaboration between Prof. Vladimir Platonovich Tsessevich and Cracow's astronomers working in the field of variables stars.

1. Introduction

Contrary to many papers presented by collaborators and disciples of Prof. Tsessevich this is the remembrance of person who never met him personally. According to my best knowledge he never visited Cracow. Probably the oldest personal relations were between Prof. Eugeniusz Rybka (1898 - 1988) and Prof. Tsessevich. (After living Lvov in 1945, where he was a professor (1932-1945) Eugeniusz Rybka have been in Wroclaw till 1958 and later on became the Director of the Astronomical Observatory of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow until retirement in 1968). Prof. Kazimierz Kordylewski (1903 -1981) working in the field of eclipsing variable visited him in Odessa, as well as in the middle seventies of the previous century Dr (in those days) Jerzy M. Kreiner paid a visit in Odessa.

While the personal contacts were rather scarce, the scientific ones were numerous. My paper is divided into two sections. In the first I refer to Cracow Yearbook, in the second one I am giving my personal recollections referring to Tsessevich's works.

2. Tsessevich and SAC

Starting from the year 1923 the Director of the Cracow Observatory Prof. Tadeusz Banachiewicz (1882 - 1954) published Rocznik Astronomiczny Obserwatorium Krakowskiego, Dodatek Midzynarodowy (Astronomical Yearbook of the Cracow Observatory, International Supplement). The Yearbook itself disappeared rather quickly, but the Supplement lived his own life, well known as SAC (Supplemento Internationale de Anuario Cracoviense).

In each Yearbook the list of eclipsing binaries and bases of the ephemerides were presented.

The first time the name of Zessewitsch appeared in SAC No 4 (ephemerides of eclipsing variables for the year 1926) published in 1925. Observations of

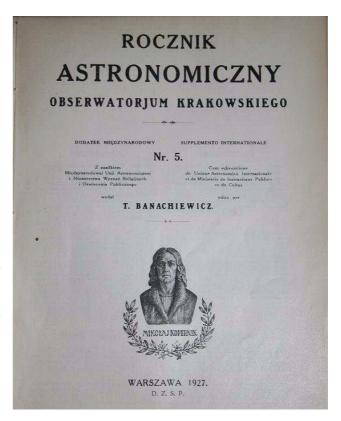


Figure 1: The front page of Supplemento Internationale de Anuario Cracoviense No 5.

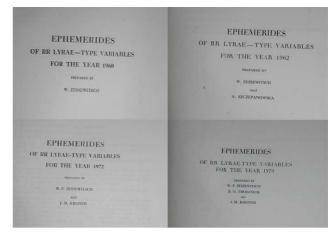


Figure 2: Front pages of RR Lyrae variable stars ephemerides.

S Equ published in Astronomische Nachrichten 5332 were quoted.

In SAC No 5 (published in 1926) his name appeared several times in connection with published in AN and BZ data dealing with following stars: WZ And, ZZ Cas, S Equ, TW Lac, AQ Peg, WX Sgr, XY Sgr, EG Sgr and T Sex.

Next year, the editor Thadeus Banachiewicz in introduction wrote that some data reported by letters from Cessewich (Leningrad) were used. Of course, the previous results incorporated in SAC and quoted in the list were preserved.

Starting from 1926 till the end of publication of SAC in the middle of nineties of the previous century the results obtained by Tsessevich were used.

In SAC No 31 for the Year 1960 (published in 1959) the following sentence, written by the editor, Prof. Rybka appeared:

"It is the first time that according to the resolution of Commission 27 of the International Astronomical Union - ephemerides for RR Lyrae type variables calculated from the data supplied by Prof. V. Tsesevich of Odessa have been included in the Yearbook."

Probably calculations of the ephemerides were performed by Dr Aldona Szczepanowska using data supplied by Prof. W. Tsessevich.

This had been explicitly written starting from SAC No 33 for the Year 1962 till Ephemerides for 1971 (SAC No 42). After that ephemerides of RR Lyrae stars were prepared by W.P. Zessewitsch and J.M. Kreiner and ephemerides from 1979 till 1985 were arranged by W.P. Zessewitsch, B.N. Firmaniuk and J.M. Kreiner. In order to complete this story I have to add that after the death of Prof. Zessewitsch the ephemerides were procured by B.N. Firmaniuk and J.M. Kreiner.

3. Observations of Eclipsing Variables

In sixties of the XX century Krakow's observers of eclipsing binaries were very active. They were amateur astronomers. Well known observer of eclipsing variables Dr Rozalia Szafraniec (1910 - 2001) mentioned this activity together with Sky and Telescope, Brno and BAV observers.

They observed visually a lot, mainly in summer. The main goal was timing minima and they were forced to prepared the finding charts for stars. This was done copying on the tracing paper the appearance of sky till 5 or 6 magnitude. After that usually from BD the appropriate region containing the variable star vicinity was copied. The last element must be the vicinity of the variable star itself. The maps published by Tsessevich among others in Izvestya Odesskoy Observatoryi vol. IV were very popular. I have been involved in preparation of maps and in that time my first acquaintance with works of Prof. Vladimir Platonovich

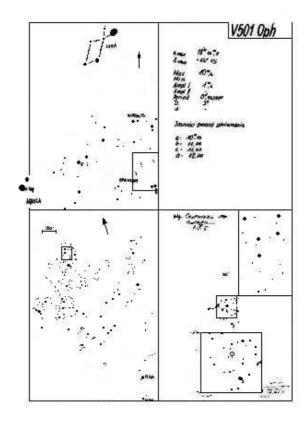


Figure 3: The map of V501 Oph.

Tsessevich took place.

This type of work was continued later on too. In Cracow Astronomical Observatory preparing maps of variable stars quite often we used above mentioned source, as well as Atlas of the vicinity of variable stars and other maps placed in various books and publications of Prof. Tsessevich.

3. Conclusions

Prof. Tsessevich observations of eclipsing variable stars gave him the worldwide reputation. It is obvious that these observations were incorporated in SAC and his name was frequently placed among authorities. The first reference in SAC to his observation published in leading astronomical journal was when he was under twenty years old in 1925. His name among authorities can be found in last issue of SAC in 1996. This means that the results of his observations appeared in SAC during the period of seventy years. The publication of maps of vicinities of variable stars helped several observers. This influence is quite often not seen easily, but it is important and cannot be forgot. My last thoughts are connected with the transcription of Vladimir Platonovicz name. In Polish is quit simple: Cesewicz. Sometime it is written Cessewicz, which is

probably the influence of German transcription. Following the German transcription in SAC quite often it is written Zessewitsch. But even in the same issue of SAC there are several different transcriptions! Officially, the memorial conference was dedicated to Prof. Tsessevich, which is English transcription. I dare to recall your attention to Prof. Rybka statement. He wrote Prof. Tsesevich, which probably is the most correct English transcription.

References

Supplemento Internationale de Anuario Cracoviense (from 1925 till 1996).

Szafraniec R.: 1970, Vistas in Astronomy, 12, 7.