

SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY OF VERA ERCEG

G. M. Popović, V. Trajkovska

Astronomical Observatory, Volgina 7, 11050 Belgrade, Yugoslavia

(Received: September 22, 1992)

SUMMARY: In this paper the scientific and professional activity of our astronomer Vera Erceg (26.8.1941 - 6.5.1992) is presented and her bibliography is given.

Vera Erceg was born on August 26, 1941, at Kraljevo, Serbia.

She began her astronomical career at Belgrade Observatory in May 1967, while still a student, as a technical operator.

After taking degree in astronomy at the Faculty of Sciences of Belgrade University, in June 1969, she became regular astronomer of Belgrade Observatory.

Her work at the Belgrade Observatory began in the Relative Coordinates Group where she stayed on till the middle of April 1971. Thereafter she started her activity in the Double Stars Group where she remained till the end of her life.

Due to her grave illness she could, from October 1982, perform her work half time only.

After ten years of struggling with the incurable illness Mrs Erceg succumbed on May 6, 1992 in Belgrade.

Her scientific and professional activity was concentrated above all on the gathering and treating of scientific data appertaining to fields of her research interest as well as on creating conditions for successful achieving her planned objectives.

Right in the beginning of her professional activity, probably already then determined to carry out an integral treatment of her astronomical observations, she examined the constants of the Large Zeiss Refractor 65/1055 cm with which she was later to observe double stars.

In the Relative Coordinates Group she took part in the regular observations and in the examinations of the Large-Meridian-Circle constants, especially flexure and collimation. From that period derives her

work "The System of Constants of Belgrade Large Meridian Circle derived from the Kuestner Series between 1967 and 1970" (9).

Mrs Erceg's activity in the Double Stars Group was principally concentrated on the orbit determination. In "Circulaire d'Information de l'UAI No 31 (Commission for Double Stars) she published 32 systems of double stars orbital elements, whereas more complete elements of these systems (data on parallax, absolute magnitude and mass) she published in 14 papers appearing in "Bulletin de l'Observatoire Astronomique de Belgrade". In addition to the calculation of elliptical orbits she also treated rectilinear trajectories of three double stars.

In spite of her eagerness to make observation herself her affliction, having developed very early, prevented her from gratifying her wish. She managed only to publish two series of the double star measurements, containing a total of 121 measurements of 76 systems. For her observations she chose principally those orbital pairs which seemed needing verification of their existing orbital elements.

There are some measurements of hers, which she was unable to publish.

Early in her career she spent a few months at Victoria Observatory, Canada, working with Dr. A. H. Batten. She planned to acquire there experience in the observation of spectroscopic double stars in order to start such observations at Belgrade Observatory. However, the lack of technical facilities did not permit a successful realisation of this project. In that period appeared a common paper by her and Dr Batten "A new Spectroscopic Orbit for Capella" (12).

In 1971 Mrs Erceg obtained her master-of-science degree at Belgrade University with the thesis "Determination of Constants of the Large Refractor of the Belgrade Observatory by Hartman's method". Some results of the thesis were published in the paper "Examinations of the Objective of the Belgrade Zeiss Refractor 65/1055 cm" (11). These are unique investigations of the Belgrade Large Refractor since the time of its mounting.

Mrs Erceg actively participated in almost all National Conferences of Yugoslav astronomers. She was also among the active participants of the IAU General Assembly at Grenoble in 1976.

From her bibliography, containing 52 references, one may infer that Vera Erceg, during her short scientific career, forcibly interrupted by her severe illness, achieved significant results and became noted in the world for her numerous double star orbits.

We may all the more be sorrowed that her valuable activity was cut off at the moment where she could give her most matured results.

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G. M. POPOVIĆ, V. TRAJKOVSKA

НАУЧНА И СТРУЧНА ДЕЛАТНОСТ ВЕРЕ ЕРЦЕГ

Г. М. Поповић и В. Трајковска

Астрономска опсерваторија, Волгина 7, 11050 Београд, Југославија

(UDC 929(497.11) 19/19 E:52(092))

Стручни рад

У овом раду дат је преглед научне и стручне делатности нашег астронома Вере Ерцег (26.8.1941 - 6.5.1992) као и њена библиографија.