

IN MEMORIAM

TATOMIR P. ANDJELIĆ

(1903 - 1993)

The memory remaining after one's passing away is bound to one's role and importance in society and circumstances in which one lived or, most often, to one's character and general qualities. In the case of a scientist it is bound to his works, their scientific values, as well as to the reputation and recognitions consequent on his creative achievements.

Academician Tatomir P. Andjelić belonged to that exceptional kind of men who after themselves leave behind an ever lasting memory in both respects. He was a respected scientist, a teacher and educator, possessing eminent human features.

We, his disciples, having had that privilege and fortune to learn from him, know how he transmitted his knowledge to us, younger ones, with an ease and warmth proper to great individuals only. Thanks to his qualities and abilities he succeeded to interest in his audience and more than that, to impart his love for science to them.

As a scientist Andjelić leaves after himself an intransient memory by a number of important works and papers. What particularly characterises him as a scientist is his ingenuity, no matter whether pure scientific problems or his studies in history of astronomy and mathematics or even their popularisation were concerned. He was active till the very end of his life.

As a professor of the Faculty of Sciences of Belgrade University, as a regular member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SANU) he was among those personalities of whom it may be said that they had a significant influence on the scientific life in our circles.

Professor Andjelić was born in November 1903 in Bečanj, between Čačak and Kraljevo, Serbia. He studied mathematics, physics and astronomy at Heidelberg, graduating from the Faculty of Sciences in Belgrade in 1928. He was fluent in several foreign languages.

After taking the university degree he was first engaged in 1928 through 1945 at the Belgrade Second Gymnasium. Following an invitation by the Belgrade University he took up lecturing in theoretical mechanics and physics at the Faculty of Philosophy.

Prof. Andjelić obtained his PhD in 1946, becoming full professor in 1957. In 1959 he was elected a corresponding member and in 1974 a regular member of SANU. In 1975 he was elected a corresponding member of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and arts in Zagreb.

He was twice elected dean of the Faculty of Sciences of the Belgrade University. In 1961 he became head of the Section for Mechanics of the Mathematical Institute of SANU and in 1969 director of that Institute, discharging this duty till 1978 when he retired.

The field of scientific interest and researches of prof. Andjelić comprises the dynamics of non-holonomous systems in fluids. He is the author of over 50 research papers in theoretical mechanics, Riemann geometry, tensor calculus, matrix theory, history and philosophy of sciences as well as about 60 professional papers and textbooks.

As a distinguished expert in the history of sciences prof. Andjelić was a regular member of the International Committee for Historical Metrology as well as president of the Society for History and Philosophy of Sciences of Serbia. His book "Introduction to Astrodynamics" deserves attention due to his having succeeded to unite in it the norms of ballistics, celestial mechanics and aerodynamics. One of the symbols flown by the spacecraft "Apollo 11" to Moon was conceived by him.

In the journal "Vasiona" ("Universe") he published articles such as "The Role of Astronomy in the Development of Mathematics", "The Problems of overcoming the Terrestrial Gravitation in the Flights beyond Earth" etc. Many popular articles are published by him in the numerous journals and magazines appearing in this country.

Valuable scientific results, successful organisation of scientific projects confided to him and his whole creative contribution earned him several national and international recognitions. He was a member of a number of mathematical, mechanical and astronomical societies in this country and abroad, heading several domestic and foreign scientific projects. One of these projects in astronomy was carried out by the astronomers of the Belgrade Observatory. To the end of his life he sustained in an outstanding way the development of astronomy in this country and remained devoted to this science.

The astronomical community of Yugoslavia owes him lasting gratitude.

*S. Sadžakov and M. Dačić*