

AN EVALUATION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
MAKSIM TRPKOVIĆ AND MILUTIN  
MILANKOVIĆ TO THE CALENDAR REFORM

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**Abstract.** An evaluation of the works of Maksim Trpković (1864–1924) and Milutin Milanković (1879–1958) which concerns the calendar reform is given. Using a complex system of evaluation for the scientific contribution, involving also the principles of professional ethics, it is stated that Maksim Trpković gave a fundamental contribution to the subject of calendar reform. His project of calendar reform had the best acceptance in scientific and ecclesiastic circles because, it satisfied both scientific and canonical requirements. At the Pan-Orthodox Congress in Constantinople in 1923 where the question of the calendar reform was considered, the Serbian Orthodox Church arrived with Trpković's project which in a modified version proposed by Milutin Milanković, was accepted. As a delegate at this Meeting Milanković, in order to achieve an agreement with the Gregorian calendar as long as possible (2800), changed the intercalation rule of Trpković's proposal (by replacing remainder of 0 or 4 by remainder of 2 or 6), while the basis of Trpković's proposal was preserved. The fact that Milanković took the more incorrect Gregorian calendar as a reference one can be viewed and understood only through the prism of the socio-political circumstances. This calendar has been referred to as: Reformed Julian Calendar, Newjulian Calendar, Pan-Orthodox Calendar, Trpković-Milanković's calendar and Milanković's calendar. These two last names have become an object of dispute, above all in the Serbian public, because some authors without valid arguments have advocated the name Milanković's calendar, whereas others accentuate that Maksim Trpković gave the main scientific contribution in this reform of the Julian calendar, so that from the point of view concerning the scientific contributions of Trpković and Milanković such a name is not justified. Milanković acquired his reputation mostly working on the theory of the Earth's insolation and its application to the problems of climate changes and ice periods and for the calendar topic his interest had begun only a month before the Pan-Orthodox Congress in Constantinople in 1923 and after this he wrote just a few discussions in which he speaks about the activity of this Meeting and about Trpković's project and the changes done by himself in it. In order to present illustratively the contributions of Maksim Trpković and Milutin Milanković, in the text in Mayer's lexicon (given also in: *Milanković's "Sećanja"*, 1952) describing the characteristics of the calendar adopted at the Pan-Orthodox Congress in 1923 if instead of "a remainder of 2 or 6" one inserted "a remainder of 0 or 4", then one would have Trpković's calendar completely, so that the other of the mentioned characteristics come from that project. The expressions "a remainder of 0 or 4", i.e. "a remainder of 2 or 6" concern the intercalation rules proposed by Trpković and Milanković, respectively, which concern the distribution of common and leap years among centurial ones. Since Milanković preserved the basis of Trpković's calendar, in his proposal

of calendar reform the year duration is the same.

Maksim Trpković considered the question of calendar reform systematically, from all relevant aspects and through his papers gave an important contribution to the calendar reform and it is correct to regard him as one of the greatest calendariographers in Serbia. For this reason a general social recognition to him is needed which has not taken place quite unjustifiedly. To encourage the consciousness about a correct and adequate evaluation of scientific contribution and correct informing should be the main task of every individual in the scientific-research activity and every society as a whole.

In the paper which will be published elsewhere in extenso is given, also, a response concerning an unjustified criticism concerning the view point of the present author which has been done in the footnotes of paper by M. S. Dimitrijević in: *Publ. Astr. druš. "Rudjer Bošković"*, **6**, 347 (2005).

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