

SUPPLEMENT TO ETHNOASTRONOMICAL RESEARCHES IN VALJEVO REGION

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Abstract. Department of Astronomy of Research Society "Vladimir Mandić Manda" from Valjevo in 1997. started with scientific project "Ethnoastronomical Researches in Serbia", and from that time there were covered Valjevo region, Kopaonik Mountain and Pirot region. Ethnoastronomical researches were existing before this period, from foundation of the Department of Astronomy. In this paper there are presented some results from this previous period, also as some very new one. These results are presented in few subsections: Moon and Sun, Planets and Stars, and Meteors and Comets. All results are commented as it was possible. Together with already published, these results complete ethnoastronomical researches in Valjevo region.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Research Society "Vladimir Mandić Manda" from Valjevo consist of several departments, and among them is Department for Astronomy. This Department besides astronomical observational research programs realize ethnoastronomical program, too, and there was very good cooperation with department for ethnology.

From 1997. the Department for Astronomy continuously work on the project "The Ethnoastronomical Research in Serbia", with the goal to collect data about peoples belief about astronomical phenomena on territory of all Serbia. In previous period we have covered several different regions: surrounding of Valjevo, Kopaonik Mountain and surrounding of Pirot (Božić, 1999; Božić, 2002; Božić and Ninković, 2003).

However these program existed from the beginning of the Department, before this concrete project (***, 1984; ***, 1985; ***, 1986). So, there is a lot of elaborates, no published papers, also as papers that are published in some early period internal publications of Research Society. As the Department wish to put together all gathered data in this paper are presented all results from this previous period, before 1997, that were found in the archive of Research Society. Some recent results are added.

2. METHODOLOGY

In all these projects there were used interviewing method. It was very important to chose eligible participants, because it was very important that they are older non-educated persons. In this case influence of the modern thoughts was smaller, and gathered beliefs were authentic (Božić, 1999).

Researchers were divided into smaller groups in visiting households. They were starting informal discussion and after that they started with interview. It was very important that participants have understood that this research needed peoples belief, not scientific truth.

3. RESULTS

In this paper there are presented only collected data that were not already published trough project "The Ethnoastronomical Research in Serbia", or data that are addition on these published results.

Moon and Sun

There is belief that Moon is representative of mankind, because the patterns on the Moon are showing shadow or face of a man.

Using the Moon you can predict the weather. So, if its "horns" are turned to the ground, it will be nice weather tomorrow, and if it opposite it will be bad weather. Also if Moon's "little horns" (*rožčići*) are turned one in front the other there is belief that next month will be rainless. If there is fence around the Moon (halo), it will be rainy.

The best time for sowing is during the full Moon, and during the new Moon (7 days) it is not good to do sowing, because it will just grown but there will not be the fruits.

Solar and lunar eclipses predict something bad. As a result of Turkish rule in this territory during centuries, and because the Moon is symbol of the Turks, the lunar eclipse means that something bad will happen to Turks all the enemies of Serbian people in general. The solar eclipse is bad thing for Serbian people.

Planets and stars

People do not recognize the difference between planets and stars. So we have collected these beliefs in the same subsection.

There were found Zvezda Danica (Daily Star), also mentioned as Jutarnja zvezda (Morning Star) and Večernjača (Evening Star), and these are different stars on the sky. Also people from Serbia know Vlašići (Pleiades) and Severnjača (North Star).

Meteors and comets

As planets, meteors and the comets are recognized as star too.

Meteors are falling stars and they are symbols for something beautiful. For example, a wish will be realized if you see a meteor. Also there is symbol for escaping from prison of some Serbian soldier.

The comets are stars with a tail. They are very scary for Serbian people, and they are regarded as bad sign.

4. CONCLUSION

Results presented are confirming collected data or they are fitting into the same general framework. So this paper is addition recent published papers and encircles the picture about peoples belief about astronomical phenomena in Valjevo region.

In this case there is a lot of Biblical motives in numerous answers, too, and the influence of periodical astronomical happenings on everyday life is substantial.

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