

FOREWORD

This volume contains the Proceedings of the Scientific Meeting "Studying Nature through Centuries" which was held in Belgrade from October 16 to October 20, 2008. This Meeting was dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the Belgrade Astronomical Observatory (founded in 1887). This main jubilee was followed by two additional ones: 150 years from the birth of Milan Nedeljković (1857 – 1950), the founder of the Observatory, as well as 75 years from the foundation of a modern observatory with all necessary facilities at its present location.

To build a modern observatory supplied with powerful astronomical instruments was a dream of Milan Nedeljković. That astronomical instruments of very high quality were acquired from Germany in the twenties of XX century as war reparations is his merit for the most part.

The Meeting "Studying Nature through Centuries" was an international one having contributors from several countries. The topics concerned various fields of philosophy, history of science and natural sciences, mainly astronomy. The Meeting was aimed to comprise the jubilees of the Belgrade Observatory and the activities in the framework of Project 146022 "History and Epistemology of Natural Sciences" registered at the Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia.

The contributions presented at the Meeting belong to the following categories: invited reviews, invited talks and contributed papers.

The members of the Scientific Organizing Committee want to express their gratitude to all participants for their efforts having contributed to the success of the Meeting. The gratitude is also due to the sponsors of the Meeting: Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia, UNESCO-BRESCE and Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Belgrade University.

Editors