

LIFE AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY OF DUŠAN ŠALETIĆ (1927-1999)

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SUMMARY: Dušan Šaletić, engineer-geodesist and colonel of the Yugoslav army, for many years an external collaborator of the Belgrade Astronomical Observatory, had a prominent share in the accomplishment of some task concerning the problems of the positional astronomy. Presentation is here given of his activity and achievements in that field, along with the list of his published works.

Engineer-geodesist Dušan Šaletić, a colonel of the Yugoslav army, an associate of the Military-Geographic Institute and for many years an external collaborator of the Belgrade Astronomical Observatory, passed away on September 15, 1999, in Belgrade.

Dušan Šaletić was born on February 17, 1927 at Počijevka, near Danilovgrad, Montenegro, to a army officer's family. He attended elementary and secondary schools in various places of his father's serving. He joined the People's Liberation Movement in his early youth. As a military scholarship holder he enrolled in the Civil Engineering Faculty, Geodetic Section, of the Belgrade University.

In 1950 Šaletić joined the Military-Geographic Institute in Belgrade as a young officer and graduate engineer. In the course of many years spent at this Institute he performed numerous responsible duties. He remained there until his retirement in 1979. He built into the very foundations of the geodetic organisation in this country his ample expert knowledge and inexhaustible energy. He transmitted his skills and experience to his subordinates and younger colleagues, sparing no time and efforts, continuing to do so even after his retirement.

Engineer-geodesist and colonel Šaletić left behind an unmistakably visible trail in the field of as-

trogeodesy in our country. Through his mathematical talents, his love for geodesy and astronomy and his practitioner's intuition he made for many particular problems of geodetic astronomy to be successfully solved. All this could not fail to excite high respect and confidence in his co-workers, especially in his younger colleagues.

He published a large number of professional and research papers from the field of geodesy, astronomy and metrology. These papers have been published in the domestic and international journals and communicated at numerous professional gatherings and symposia of geodesist, astronomers and mathematicians in our country or abroad. Besides, as a collaborator of the Military Encyclopedia he enriched its contents with his remarkable contributions.

It is to be pointed out that Šaletić was particularly interested in the problems of meridian and fundamental astronomy. In addition to his being engaged in the Military-Geographic Institute he worked at the Belgrade Astronomical Observatory almost as a full time associate. First it was his participation in the latitude determinations (Refs. 1, 2, 3, 4). Subsequently he took part in the preparation of the Large Meridian Instrument (LMI) for regular astronomical observations (Refs. 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14).

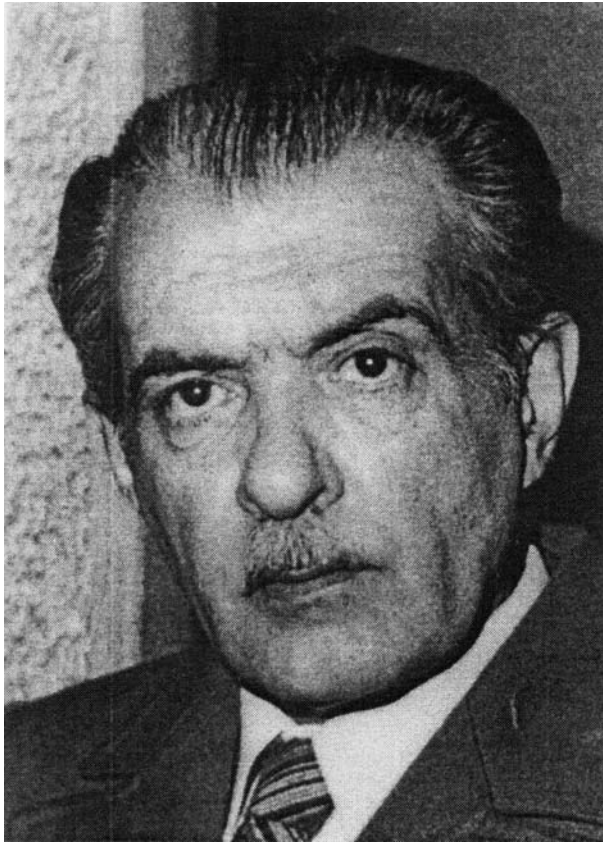


Fig. 1. *Dušan Šaletić.*

He in person carried out the fitting and adjusting of LMI, including the achievement of an optimal weight relieving system. He took part in the examination of the instrument's parts such as: the pivots of the horizontal axis, the circles, eight microscope-micrometers, eye-piece-micrometer, in the determination of flexure, collimation error etc. He laboured on the setting of reticules in the eye-piece micrometer and microscope-micrometers, examination of the level on the instrument's horizontal axis, adjustment

of the collimators pair, securing the nadiral readings by way of mercury mirror, determination of instrument's constants and the like. This done, he participated in the experimental observations as a preliminary to the regular ones.

Thanks to his copious observing experience and his being well versed in astronomy he was able to contribute, together with other co-working astronomers, to elaborating with the Belgrade LMC, the very first in this country catalogue of star positions (Ref. 3). The catalogue was thoroughly analysed (Refs. 11, 12, 13). This catalogue's data have been used in establishing the reference basis to the FK5, being adduced in the list of catalogues used under No. 331. Meanwhile Šaletić participated in the forming of a derived catalogue of declinations and proper motions of latitude stars (Ref. 16).

Thereafter, Šaletić participated, with remarkable zeal, in the observations with LMI of stars comprised by the programme of the photographic zenith tubes in the north hemisphere – NPZT Programme (Refs. 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23). The Belgrade NPZT catalogue (Ref. 24) appears with No. 250 in the list of catalogues used in constructing the FK5. The positions of these stars constituted the reference basis of FK5, which has been in force from the middle of eighties up to the beginning of 1998. The Belgrade NPZT catalogue also underwent an analysis (Refs. 25, 29, 31).

Dušan Šaletić was very active also in the daytime observations of the Sun, planets and stars as well as in the analysis of the results obtained (Refs. 18, 27, 28, 30, 31).

The completion of our NPZT catalogue in 1980 marked the end of Šaletić's participation in the Belgrade Observatory's observing programmes. Nevertheless, whenever there arose some problem, or there was some matter needing clarification, we were certain that we always could count on Šaletić lending us support (Refs. 26, 33, 34).

Dušan Šaletić's personality, in which there were united a distinguished geodesist and astronomer, a tireless worker possessing eminent moral features, will be preserved in lasting memory.

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**ЖИВОТ И НАУЧНА АКТИВНОСТ
ИНЖЕЊЕРА ДУШАНА ШАЛЕТИЋА**

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Стручни рад

Душан Шалетић, дугогодишњи сарадник Астрономске опсерваторије у Београду, имао је у тој институцији видног удела у остварењу неких задатака који су се односили

на проблеме позиционе астрономије. Овде је приказана његова активност у тој области са одговарајућим списком објављених радова.