

JELISAVETA ARSENIJEVIĆ (1931–2015)



Jelisaveta Arsenijević

From the very beginning of her professional career Jelisaveta Arsenijević, a daughter of Ružica and Dušan Arsenijević, dedicated her scientific work to astronomy. Born on October 2, 1931 in Pepeljevac, Serbia, she first began working at the Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade on July 2, 1956 as a student of astronomy at the Belgrade University. Even before graduating (on April 30, 1958) she participated in the responsible work within the Solar Activity Group during the International Geophysical Year, an international scientific project that lasted from July 1957 to December 1958. The continuation of work in the Solar activity group resulted in her first scientific paper: “Observations du Soleil en 1957, 1958 et 1959 à l’Observatoire Astronomique de Belgrade”.

From the beginning of 1960, together with her colleague Aleksandar Kubičela, Jelisaveta Arsenijević worked in the Variable Stars Group supervised by Vasilij Oskanjan. They initiated development of polarimetric techniques at the Observatory of Belgrade and her first work in this area: “Polarimètre

photoélectrique de l’Observatoire Astronomique de Belgrade” was published together with her first independent paper: “Observation of the polarization of the solar corona during the solar eclipse at Hvar on 15 II 1961”. Later on, this group evolved into the Astrophysical Group of Belgrade Astronomical Observatory, which she supervised from 1982.

In addition to her scientific and organizing capabilities, Jelisaveta Arsenijević was a passionate observer and she worked and published in various fields, mainly in photoelectric flare stars observations, polarimetry in astronomy (particularly applied to the variations of linear optical polarization of Be and cool supergiant stars), strongly interacting binaries, and generally in solar and stellar activity phenomena.

Jelisaveta Arsenijević participated in many conferences in Serbia and abroad, and she published a large number of scientific and professional papers in national and international journals. It is interesting to note that, out of more than 100 papers published during her scientific career, 43 were done after her retirement, which was at the beginning of 1993. As if by fate, her last paper: “Total Solar Eclipse ’99 - Photos From Kikinda” published in 1999 treated the same phenomenon as her first independent scientific paper. Moreover, after publishing this last paper, she remained interested in work of her colleagues and continued her membership in the International Astronomical Union and various national astronomical organizations.

Jelisaveta Arsenijević was a dedicated and successful scientist, but above all, she is remembered as a valued friend and mentor to many young researchers in Serbia. Her endurance and persistence in the early years of astrophysics in Serbia were pivotal to the development of this, then a new discipline at the Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade, continuing to inspire scientists in the field until today. Jelisaveta Arsenijević showed a deep personal interest in the welfare and careers of many people she introduced to stellar physics, and she made the exceptional efforts to welcome new colleagues, into both her scientific collaborations and at her home.

Due to her sudden death on March 16, 2015 Jelisaveta Arsenijević is not among us anymore, she left to join the constellation of brave people who pi-

oneered Serbian astronomy. For this reason, and especially when looking at the starry sky, we should remember our loved colleague and friend, Jelisaveta.

**ЈЕЛИСАВЕТА АРСЕНИЈЕВИЋ
(1931–2015)**

Јелисавета Арсенијевић је била посвећен и успешан научник, али више од свега, сећамо је се као драгоценог пријатеља и ментора многим младим истраживачима у Србији. Њена издржљивост и упорност у раним годинама српске астрофизике су биле кључне за развој ове тада нове области на Астрономској опсерваторији у Београду, и настављају и данас да инспиришу научнике који раде на том пољу. Јелисавета Арсенијевић је показала дубок лични интерес за благостање и кари-

јере многих људи које је увела у физику звезда и чинила је неубичајене напоре да пожели добродошлицу новим колегама, како у својим научним сарадњама тако и у својој кући.

Због изненадне смрти, 16. марта 2015, Јелисавета Арсенијевић више није са нама, отишла је да се придружи сазвежђу пионира српске астрономије. Због тога, а нарочито када погледамо звездано небо, треба да се сетимо наше вољене колегинице и пријатеља, Јелисавете.