

To the 70th anniversary of I. M. Kopylov



On October 15, 1998 the first director of the Special Astrophysical Observatory, a distinguished astrophysicist Ivan Mikheevich Kopylov, is 70.

I.M. Kopylov was born in v.Uskat, Kemerovo region. Having graduated from the Leningrad University in 1950, he was assigned to work at the Crimean Observatory of the USSR AS being under construction at that time. In the CrAO he worked his way from laboratory assistant to senior researcher, an expert in the field of spectroscopy of stars and astronomical instrument making.

The reputation of I. M. Kopylov was due to his study of hot and peculiar stars, star rotation. In conjunction with A. A. Boyarchuk he published a catalogue of star rotation velocities which has been cited ever since. I. M. Kopylov's papers on two-dimensional quantitative spectral classification of hundreds of stars, study of the relationship between rotational velocity and spectral class and luminosity have largely contributed to understanding of stellar evolution.

While a staff member of the CrAO, I.M. Kopylov was closely concerned with the problems of telescope construction and development of devices for astronomical research, along with the scientific activity. He was the astronomer-in-charge of different telescopes of the CrAO, including the 2.6 m SMT largest in Europe at that time.

By the Decision of the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Science, on June 3, 1966 I.M. Kopylov was appointed director of the newly established Special Astrophysical Observatory with the world's largest 6 m telescope. The director was to manage the task of erecting the giant telescope and forming a body of scientists to do research up to the world standard in a wide scope of astrophysical problems. The director was faced with the creation of the staff

of researchers and engineers, with the organization of interaction with various establishments and firms involved in the construction of the 6 m telescope and the radio telescope RATAN-600. The director's work was extremely complicated and diversified. This included control over putting in service units and parts of the telescope, manufacturing and acceptance of the BTA main mirror, and the radio telescope antenna elements. Much trouble was caused by cooperating enterprises. At the same time construction of a residential settlement was under way.

Before 1974 no observations were carried out at the Observatory, the work of the staff, consisting basically of young people, had to be directed so that they could keep abreast with the present-day scientific and methodological developments in the central fields of modern astrophysics.

All this was managed, and when the telescopes were put into regular operation in 1977, the SAO researchers were quite prepared for formulation and accomplishment of their own research programmes and ensuring the fulfilment of programmes of external users.

From 1966 to 1985 I.M. Kopylov was the Observatory's director. In a literal sense he had come to a blank, and on resigning he left a strong team of researchers, the smoothly functioning largest telescopes, the settlement Nizhnij Arkhyz with the laboratory building and accommodations. The laboratories, the library, research council and seminars work in accordance with the rules established by I. M. Kopylov.

I.M. Kopylov founded a group of stellar spectroscopists who rank high in the former USSR. Nearly all leading spectroscopists of the SAO are students of I. M. Kopylov. Under his guidance a great deal of work was done on the study of peculiar stars in clusters of different age, on the detailed research into the object SS 433, on quantitative classification of stars etc. I. M. Kopylov was a supervisor of a number young members of the SAO staff.

Now I. M. Kopylov works at the Main Astronomical Observatory RAS (Pulkovo, St. Petersburg). In spite of this the Special Astrophysical Observatory experiences his permanent influence on its scientific life: he is a member of the 6 m Telescope Programme Committee, a member of the Council on Theses. Every staff member of the SAO holds a profound respect for him.

The colleagues from the SAO congratulate him on the occasion of his 70th birthday and wish him good health and long years of fruitful activity as a scientist and teacher.

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