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METEOROLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS AT THE ASTRONOMIC OPSERVATORY IN BELGRADE

Meteorology, as a science of the Earth's atmosphere in the broadest sense, is closely connected with long-term phenomena in the sky. Astronomy, a science close to and dependent on the meteorological conditions prevailing in the Earth's natural mantle, has fully linked all its research to parameters obtained over the centuries from meteorological measurements from stations, which are more densely placed on the Earth's surface.

At the Astronomical Observatory in Belgrade, systematic monitoring of meteorological conditions and recording data related to them were present in serious astronomical research, and in the case of astrography, fundamental astronomy, and other fields, the meteorological service and its development during the Observatory's decades were of great importance for accuracy of results that introduced the Astronomical Observatory into the circle of high-ranking professional astronomical institutions.

By the decision of the Ministry of Education and Ecclesiastical Affairs of the Kingdom of Serbia, at the beginning of 1887, the Astronomical and Meteorological Observatory of the Great School was founded, and on the initiative and with the great dedication of its professor Milan Nedeljković (1857–1950).

The Observatory in 1891 acquires its own building in West Vračar (Belgrade) 44° 48' N i 20° 28' E at the altitude of 132 m. The separation of the Astronomical Observatory from the Meteorological Department occurred in 1924, but the two institutions continued to work in the same location. During this period, the data of the Meteorological Observatory and its numerous field stations could be used for astronomical measurements. The Astronomical Observatory got a new, but close location on the Veliki Vračar (today's Zvezdara, Belgrade) in 1932 where it is still today.

The separation of locations two observatories has now led to the need to set new meteorological measurements at the new location of the Astronomy Observatory to obtain the meteorological data needed for astrophysical observations. A new meteorological station, created also for astronomical needs, worked by the rules of standardized meteorological observations, and gave a significant contribution to research and observation of time and climate in Serbia. Some important information on the operation of this station will be presented in this paper.

In addition to numerous astronomical instruments, a meteorological station was set up in its circle, which officially started on July 16, 1934. In the Republic Hydrometeorological Institute of Serbia, a separate data card is kept for each meteorological station. The meteorological station of the Astronomical Observatory had number 181, the coordinates $44^{\circ} 48' N$ and $20^{\circ} 32' E$ at the altitude of 253 m (corner at the northern entrance of the Astronomical Observatory).

The work of astronomers was highly dependent on meteorological conditions, mostly on cloudiness and precipitation. The new Astronomical Observatory was, like most of its European counterparts, primarily an astrometric institution. As part of its activity, it covered all areas of classical astronomy, where meteorological data were necessary for regular observation work, especially as parameters in the reduction of observational data and the execution of their final results.

The meteorological data were important for the work on cataloging objects of objects by instruments of fundamental astronomy, which, as unique in the world, were installed at the observatory in the 1960s. Problems related to the study of the phenomenon of atmospheric refraction were especially the subject of scientific research of several leading astronomers of the Belgrade Observatory.

Key words: Astronomical observatory in Belgrade, Meteorological measurements and observations