

ASTEROIDS – CELESTRIAL TRAVELERS

The article discusses basic information about asteroids, which was obtained after their recent discovery (19th century). Bearing in mind that Serbia was still under Turkish rule (during which no special attention was paid to science) at the time of the discovery of the first asteroid in 1801, and that the development of astronomy in our country practically began in 1926, the begin of the discoveries of the asteroids by Serbian astronomers only ten years after that event (1936), presents an extraordinary success. Particularly if we take into account that Serbia was in a very difficult geo-political situation (because 1936 was between the two world wars), at that time. Consequently, more attention in this paper is devoted to the Serbian astronomer Petar Đurković, who started a series of asteroid discoveries, and thus opened a new chapter in Serbian astronomy.

Key words: Asteroids, Big 4, Petar Đurković