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## НАША ПРЕПИСКА О АСТРОНОМСКОЈ ОПСЕРВАТОРИЈИ У 1941. И 1942. ГОДИНИ

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**Резиме.** Представљена је преписка аутора у којој се разматра питање времена које је Војислав Мишковић, директор Астрономске опсерваторије у Београду, провео 1941. као таоц на Бањици, борба 1941-1942. да спектрохелиограф остане на Астрономској опсерваторији и његова судбина.

Септембра 2002, један од аутора (М.С.Д.), добио је е-mail од другог (М.П.С.), у коме га је овај обавестио да пише књигу о истраживањима Сунца у Трећем рајху и замолио да га обавести да ли је директор Астрономске опсерваторије Војислав Мишковић био у току 1941. ухапшен и колико времена је био отсутан. После одговора на ово, следило је још неколико питања везаних за истраживани период. Овде је представљена поменута преписка у којој су расветљавана питања одвођења 1941. године Војислава Мишковића у логор на Бањици као таоца и руковођења Опсерваторијом у том периоду, као и његово организовање Службе Сунца, борба да спектрохелиограф остане на Опсерваторији и коначна судбина овог инструмента.

### ПРЕПИСКА\*

From mdimitrijevic@aob.aob.bg.ac.yu Date: Sat, 2 Nov 2002 19:24:50 +0100 (CET)

Dear Mr Seiler,

Thank you very much for your message from 10 september concerning V. Miskovic and sorry for late answer since I was not at the Observatory. I tried to

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\* Наведен је оригиналан текст уз нужне исправке очигледних грешака, као и убацивање специфичних латиничних слова.

investigate your question in more detail. In M. Indjić, Scientific activity of Academician Vojislav Mišković, Bulletin Astronomique de Belgrade No 154, 1996, 167 is stated that "he was detained as a hostage for two months in the Banjica prison in 1941." In my paper: M. S. Dimitrijević, Astronomy in Serbia (in Serbian), Publications of the Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade, No 64, 1999, 19 is stated that in 1936, Mišković with the help of M. B. Protić organizes the Service for Solar observations. In L. Č. Popović and M. Radovanac, Astronomical Observatory during the II world war (in Serbian) Publ. Astron. Obs. Belgrade No 71, 2002, 133 is stated that due to absence of astronomers, in July 1941, Mišković took himself Service on the Small refractor with the task to examine possibility to photograph regularly the Sun and to observe visible occultations. I checked in the Observatory archive and exist a period in November - December 1941 when documents have been signed not by Mišković but by Anton Bilimović and Miloš Radojčić. The last document signed by Mišković is dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 1941 and than he starts again to sign documents in the beginning of January 1942. It seems than, that in November and December 1941 he was detained as a hostage.

I will be very grateful to you if when your work will be published you send to me a copy.

I am sending to you my best wishes.

Milan S. Dimitrijević

From MPSeiler@aol.com Date: Thu, 7 Nov 2002 13:58:15 EST

Dear Mr. Dimitrijević,

Thank you very much for your answer which was very helpful. Do you have any information about the exact date that the spectroheliograph was taken away from Belgrade?

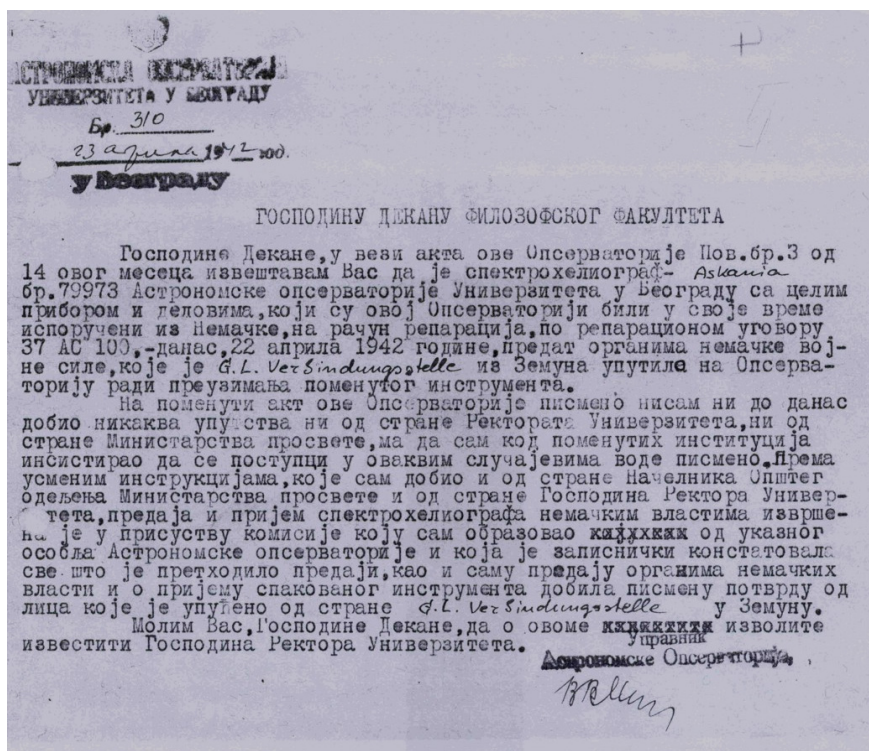
It is worthwhile to note that when the Germans came in June of 41, it was still packed in its original wooden box and was apparently never used, because a coelostat was missing. Kiepenheuer wanted to install a Coelostat in September. I suspect that the spectroheliograph did never work, since it was moved to the Meudon observatory workshop near Paris for adjustment in early 1942. The spectroheliograph and the comet finder were then moved to Syracuse in Sicily where a small solar observatory was erected near the beach. It operated from July 42 to June 43, until the Allies landed on the beaches. Apparently, it was plundered or destroyed during the battle.

If you send me your postal address, I will be glad to send you a copy of my work, once its published.

Best regards,

Michael P. Seiler

From mdimitrijevic@aob.aob.bg.ac.yu Date: Fri, 8 Nov 2002 18:06:02 +0100 (CET)



Слика 1. Допис Војислава Мишковића Декану Филозофског факултета од 14. априла 1941.

Dear Mr Seiler

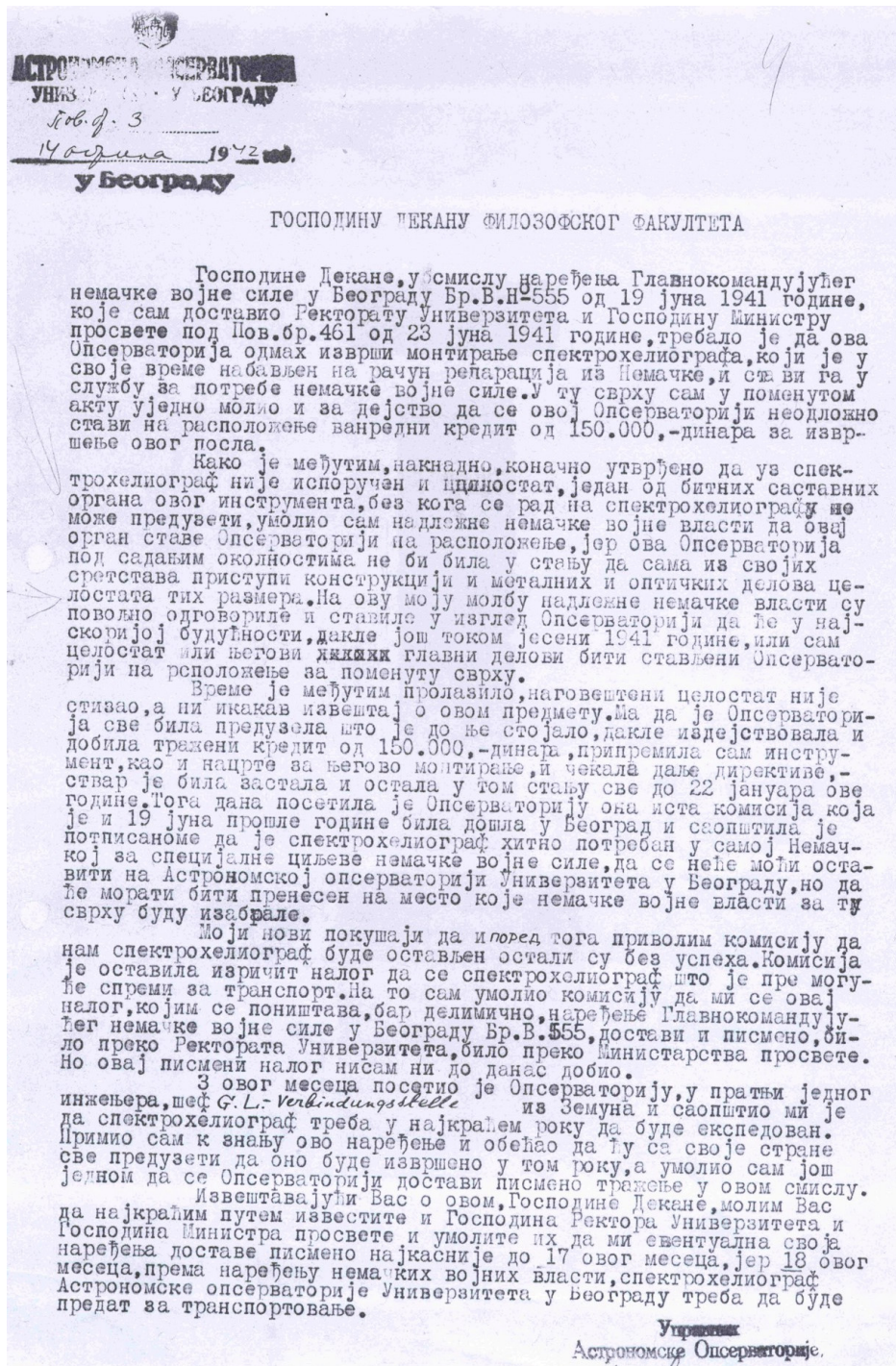
Thank you very much for your message. Concerning spectroheliograph, Miskovic struggled very hard to keep spectroheliograph in Belgrade and to obtain a credit of 150 000 dinars for the construction of a pavilion for this instrument. He succeeded to obtain promiss for credit and even received a promisse to obtain from Germany celostat in the autumn of 1941. However, a German commission who visited Observatory on 22. 01. 1942 decided to take it (Report No. 3, of 14. 04. 1942) and the spectroheliograph has been taken on 22. 04. 1942 (L. Č. Popović, M. Radovanac: 2002, Astronomical observatory during the Second world war (in serbian), Publ. Astron. Obs. Belgrade, No 72, 133).

My address is

Milan S. Dimitrijević Astronomical Observatory Volgina 7, 11160 Belgrade Yugoslavia

I am sending to you my best wishes.

Milan S. Dimitrijević



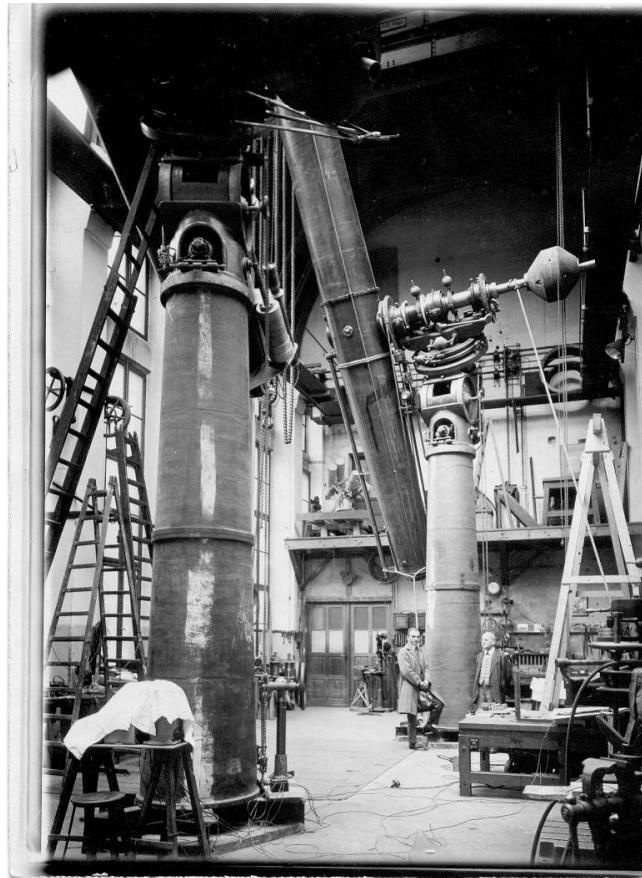
Слика 2. Допис Војислава Мишковића Декану Филозофског факултета од 23. априла 1941.

From MPSeiler@aol.com Date: Sat, 23 Nov 2002 13:41:03 EST

Dear Mr. Dimitrijević,

Thank you for your detailed e-mail and address. Before I can conclude the Belgrade chapter, I have one final question which I hope you will be able to answer. Based on local documents the coelostat was actually mounted by the Germans in September 41 in Belgrade, so that the spectroheliograph would have been operational. The documents also say that Yugoslav partisans have destroyed the coelostat mechanics soon afterwards, rendering the system inoperable. Can you confirm this ?

Best regards, Michael P. Seiler



**Слика 3.** Војислав Мишковић (са леве стране) 1930. године у фабрици Карл Цајс у Јени са рефрактором од 65 цм направљеним за Београдску опсерваторију.

From mdimitrijevic@aob.aob.bg.ac.yu Date: Fri, 29 Nov 2002 14:29:30 +0100 (CET)

Dear Mr. Seiler,

Thank you very much for your e-mail. I investigated your question in the Archives of Belgrade Observatory and I found the following. During June, July and August 1941 Mišković have a real diplomatic battle on two fronts: with German authorities for spectroheliograph, which Germans wanted to take and with Rectorat of the Belgrade University and Decanat of the Faculty of Philosophy to obtain a credit of 150 000 dinars to construct a pavillion for it. He obtained from Germans a promiss that the missing celostat will arrive from Germany during the autumn of 1941. However the celostat never came to Observatory.

In his letter to Dean of the Physiosophycal Faculty dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 1942 (Confidential No 3), he said that he sent to Rectorat and Minister of Education (Confidential. No. 461 from 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1941) order of the Head of the German military power in Belgrade V-555 from 19<sup>th</sup> June 1941 that imediately Astronomical observatory should mount spectroheliograph and put it in the service of German military power. He remind that in order to do so he asked from Belgrade University a credit of 150 000 din for this job. Since after that it was found that celostat was not ordered with other equipment and is missing, he obtained promiss from German military authorities that in the near future, during autumn 1941, or the whole celostat or its principal parts will come to Observatory.

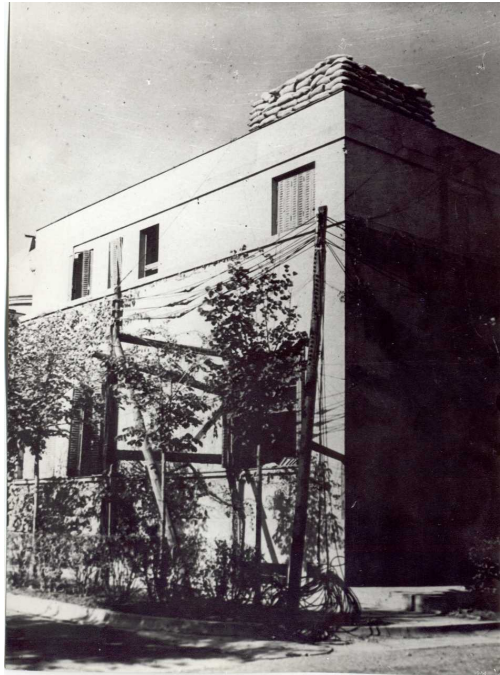
However neither celostat nor a report of this case never came to Observatory, until 22 January 1942 when the same comission which prepared order of 19 June came to Observatory, and told to him that spectroheliograph is urgently needed in Germany for special objectives of German military power, and that should be transported to the place which will be chosen by German military authorities.

On 3 April 1942, Opservatory visited the head of G. L. Verbindungsstelle from Zemun accompanied with an engineer and told that spectroheliograph should be expedited urgently. He asked a written order but without result. He inform Dean on this facts ask him to inform Rector and Minister of education and ask the written instruction since he should give spectroheliograph on 18 April 1942.

In the letter to the Dean dated 23 April 1942, he inform him that spectroheliograf Askania No 79973 with all equipment deliverd to Obsertvatory in accordance to reparation contract 37 AS 100, has been given on 22 April 1942 to German military organs from G. L. Verbindungsstelle from Zemun. Consequently, celostat was never delivered and mounted on Observatory and if it was destroyed by partisans during the transport from Germany, Miskovic never has been informed about that.

I am sending to you my best wishes and I am very interesting to receive in future your works on this and simillar subject.

Milan S. Dimitrijević



**Слика 4.** Немачка инсталација за противавионску одбрану на крову југоисточног крила главне зграде 1943. године.

From MPSeiler@aol.com Date: Thu, 12 Dec 2002 14:43:27 EST

Dear Mr. Dimitrijević,

Since you have helped me so good with information, maybe you can help me with historic photographs as well. To illustrate my publication I would be interested in photos of the observatory during Nazi occupation, especially if they would show Miskovic together with some of the German astronomers. Would this be available in your archives ?

Best regards, Michael P. Seiler

From mdimitrijevic@aob.aob.bg.ac.yu Date: Wed, 1 Jan 2003 11:44:35 +0100 (CET)

Dear Mr Seiler,

I wish you a happy, joyful, and successful New 2003 year with a lot of joy and realisation of all your plans.

Concerning photos, I was surprised that in our archive there is no photos from war period. I do not know the reasons. I can only assume that, since Observatory had also military importance, this was not allowed regularly, or since photos are

not a usual archive material in an institution like this. However I succeeded to find in family albums of old astronomers two photos which may be interesting for you. The first is taken in 1943 and represent a German anti air attack instalation on the roof on the south east wing of the Main building. The second represent Vojislav Miskovic in 1930, (he is on the left) in Karl Zeiss factory in Jena with the refractor 65cm finished for Belgrade Observatory.

If I can help you additionaly, do not hesitate to send me a message.  
All the best

Milan S. Dimitrijević

From MPSeiler@aol.com Date: Wed, 1 Jan 2003 06:29:04 EST

Dear Mr. Dimitrijević,

Also to you all the best for the New Year 2003 and again thank you very much for all your help so far. It is really difficult to get photographs of the solar observatories made during the war and I believe you are right that this was because of military security reasons. It is also my experience that these are mainly in private files. Unfortunately, many people have died already and material of historical significance was thrown away by the families. All the more I am very thankful for your two photos, but maybe you can mail me the file with the Mišković photo in the same format as the second photo, since I cannot open it with any of the softwares that I have?

Best regards,

Michael P. Seiler

### **Захвалница**

Један од аутора (М.С.Д.) захваљује се Милану Радованцу који му је помогао у налажењу одговарајућих архивских података и Војислави Протић – Бенишек чијом је љубазношћу добио две, у чланку поменуте, фотографије (Сл. 3 и 4).

Овај рад је урађен у оквиру пројекта 1471 *Историја астрономије код Срба*, код Министарства за науку и заштиту животне средине Републике Србије.

### **OUR EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES ON ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY IN 1941 AND 1942**

Author's messages considering the question when in 1941, Vojislav Mišković, director of Belgrade Astronomical Observatory, was as hostage in Banjica, are presented, as well as his struggle to keep the spectroheliograph on Observatory and the final destiny of this instrument.