E. P. FEDOROV – A HIGH CLASSIC ASTRONOMER (TO THE 95th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY)

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"... E. P. Fedorov combines himself the knowledge of a erudite theorist in the field of celestial mechanics with the qualities of a skillful experimenter by observational conditions and instrumental errors. This rare and exceptional characteristic determines the astronomer of the highest rank."

Prof. P. Melchior
President of IAU Commission 19
"Earth rotation" 1969

Short review

Evgen Pavlovych Fedorov (1909–1986) was a well known astronomer who played a very important role in the fundamental astrometry and geodynamics in the second half of the 20th century.

E. P. FEDOROV AS AN ACTIVE OBSERVER

1947–1959: E. P. Fedorov observed latitude variation of Poltava with the Bamberg zenith-telescope. In that period he published more than 60 scientific papers on his observations and investigations. He proposed a new program for observations of the latitude variations named "Poltava's program of the latitude observations".

E. P. FEDOROV AS A THEORIST IN THE BRANCH OF THE EARTH'S ROTATION AND PIONEER IN APPLICATION OF STATISTICAL METHODS FOR THE ANALYSIS OF LATITUDE VARIATIONS AND POLAR MOTION

In 1958 Fedorov's book "Nutation and forced motion of the Earth pole" (in Russian) was published and in 1963 it was translated into English by B. S. Jeffreys with foreword of Sir Harold Jeffreys. The book was of great importance for nutation theory and got a high estimation of specialist.

E. P. FEDOROV AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE IAU COMMISSION 19 DURING THE PERIOD OF THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ILS

Evgen Pavlovich Fedorov was the President of the IAU Commission 19 in 1955–1961. In this period the future of the International Latitude Service (ILS) was actively discussed, and the plan for future study of the polar motion was elaborated. E. P. Fedorov was the organizer and the leader of these preparatory works.

He was editor of the collection papers "On the present state and the future of latitude investigations" (Moscow, 1960). In this collection well known scientists were able to give an account of their opinions on the state latitude observation and offer for their improvement.

E. P. Fedorov was organizer and chairman of the SOC of the Symposium on the future ILS at the XII General Assembly of the IUGG (1960, Helsinki, Finland). On the XI General Assembly of IAU (Berkeley, USA, 1961) the structure of new International Polar Motion Service (IPMS) were confirmed. The direction of this service carried out by Scientific Committee. E. P. Fedorov and B. Guinot were the represent actives of IAU in this Committee. According to E. P. Fedorov's suggestion the IPMS Central Bureau was placed in Mizusawa with T. Hattory as the director. In 1972 E. P. Fedorov visited Mizusawa with lectures and helped the IPMS Bureau with work.

E. P. FEDOROV IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE MAIN ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY FROM 1959 TO 1973

He furthered to the development and the progress of the Observatory and the building of the astrophysical branch on Terskol (Northern Caucasus, Russia). In this period the Main Astronomical Observatory became a well-known observatory with a great authority all over the world.

E. P. FEDOROV AND HIS SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL

E. P. Fedorov educated many young astronomers ("Kyiv school of latitude variation studies"). In 1960–1970 he elaborated a new method for analysis of the pole motion and latitude variations. In 1972 E. P. Fedorov with his pupils published a large work about the new determination of polar motion (1890–1969), which got the high appreciation. Many of Fedorov's pupils work at the Main Astronomical Observatory of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and others observatories of the world.

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