

PREFACE

In 1946, immediately with the foundation of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), its founder Viktor Ambartsumian also established a new scientific bulletin, which was called "*The Communications of the Byurakan Observatory*" (although the English version of the periodical's title then was written as "Contributions from the Byurakan Observatory"). The managing editor of it was Viktor Ambartsumian. Then it was the only magazine in Armenia, where the staff of the BAO could publish results of their research, as well as other articles concerning the many-sided activity of the observatory. Research papers have been published mainly in Russian, but one can find some papers in Armenian as well.

The brief foreword in Armenian and Russian by the director of the observatory Viktor Ambartsumian opens the first issue of the new periodical. This foreword defines the purposes of the new observatory as follows:

30 kilometers north-west of the city of Yerevan, near the village of Byurakan, Ashtarak region, on the southern slope of Aragats, a new Observatory of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian SSR is under construction. A number of new instruments are being installed at the Observatory. There are also transferred instruments from the ones that existed so far in the Yerevan Observatory. The Byurakan Observatory suggests dedicating its forces, mainly, the problems of stellar astronomy and especially stellar statistics. The publication of the Communications of the Byurakan Observatory begins hereby. In this connection, the publication of the Bulletin of the Yerevan Observatory is interrupted.

Initially, all the individual issues, inclusive up to the XV, were devoted to the publication of one article. The first one published in 1946, was the paper "*The Fluctuations in the Apparent Distribution of the Stars and the Cosmic Absorption*" by Benjamin Markarian. For the next two years, not a single issue was published, but in 1949 three numbers of Communications were issued. There was the joint article by Viktor Ambartsumian and Benjamin Markarian, then a paper by Haik Badalian in Armenian, and in the fourth number, a paper by Grigor Gurzadyan came out.

Today, the study of past issues of "Communications" allows one to understand better the process of becoming the Byurakan Observatory and the choice of its main scientific topics. The number of published articles has increased significantly since 1956, when three issues with nine articles were published. The same number of issues with eight works one finds for the next year. In 1958, sixteen papers were published in two issues, eleven of them published in the second one (issue XXV) dedicated to the 50th birthday of Viktor Ambartsumian.

It is interesting that abstracts of papers in English appear since the issue XXX published in 1962. There was not an issue published in 1965. Most probably, that happened because in 1965 the Armenian Academy of Sciences started publication of the new astrophysical magazine "Astrophysics". Ambartsumian was the Editor-in-Chief of the new magazine and, surely, it was taking a lot of time. Nonetheless, in the following year the publication of the "Communications" resumed and continued until the very collapse of the Soviet Union and the beginning of Armenia's independence. Due to the deteriorating economic situation in the country, the publication of "Communications" was suspended. The last one was release number LXIII.

In 2017, the administration of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory decided to recommence publication of the "Communications of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory" in electronic form. In order to preserve traditions, the first issue of the new version we represent as the issue 1 (LXIV). Like its predecessor, this journal will publish both original scientific papers and reviews, as well as articles of technical character. Under the heading "Legacy", the renewed magazine will republish some old articles of high value in English. The heading "Guest articles" will bring to the attention of readers the articles of researchers who are not employees of the Byurakan Observatory.

Editorial Board