History of Romanian Astronomy¹

Romanian astronomy can be traced back to the time of the Dacian civilisation, with scientific practices beginning in the Middle Ages and advancing rapidly in the second half of the 19th century.

For more than 150 years, Romanian astronomers have authored scientific papers, which have gathered at observatories around the country. Some of this work is well known abroad, but some has received less attention than deserved. Along with their articles, some astronomers saved their photographs and their documents, while others barely saved anything.

Our efforts have focused on preserving these records and for this purpose we have saved them onto a DVD which can be used to source the online library.

This record includes the work, photographs and documents of 35 Romanian astronomers. Their articles were published in French and English and therefore this DVD is useful to researchers abroad, even if they do not know Romanian. The DVD is a real library, containing articles, theses and books. For the larger texts, I have included the covers and tables of contents.

Naturally, these records do not reflect the importance of the astronomers to the scientific community; they show the information available to us.

The DVD also shows eight observatories in Romania, in photographs and documents.

Included are two notable events in the history of Romanian Astronomy: the total solar eclipse of February 15, 1961 and, most notably, the total solar eclipse of August 11, 1999, the maximum of which was visible from Romania.

Finally, the DVD includes a list of periodicals and references for Romanian Astronomy in Romanian, and English or French.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this DVD, including Liviu Şerbănescu for technical support, and to the following for the collection of the documents: Elvira Botez, Ciprian Chiruță, Ladislau Farkaş, Cătălin Galeş, Tiberiu Oproiu, Petre Popescu. I would also like to share a kind thought to the memory of Rodica Roman.

¹ Magda Stavinschi, *Istoria astronomiei românești*, Institutul Astronomic al Academiei Române, București, 2014, ISBN 978-973-0-17090-0



