

## IN MEMORIAM VASILE MIOC (1948-2013)

*The present Issue of the Romanian Astronomical Journal  
is dedicated to the memory of the man who was its  
Editor En Chief during twelve years,  
Dr. Vasile Mioc.*

Graduate of the Faculty of Mathematics of Bucharest University (1971), with a Doctorate from the Faculty of Mathematics of Babes-Bolyai University (1981), Dr. Vasile Mioc dedicated his professional life to astronomy and celestial mechanics.

Hired as a researcher by the Astronomical Institute of the Romanian Academy in 1971, he rose to Senior Researcher in 1990. In 1991 he received the membership in the Scientific Council of the Astronomical Institute of the Romanian Academy, and in 1994 the entitlement to Doctoral supervision. He held several leadership positions: Deputy Director (1997-2005) and Director (2005-2013) of the Astronomical Institute, and Vice-President (1998-2006) and President (2006-2012) of the Romanian National Astronomical Committee.

Dr. Vasile Mioc was the Editor-in-Chief of the Romanian Astronomical Journal for twelve years, and a member of the editorial boards of several national and international journals. He also edited 16 books in the series of the Faculty of Mathematics Research Seminars of the Babes-Bolyai University, as well as three AIP volumes.

At the beginning of his career, Dr. Vasile Mioc worked on the first Romanian observations of artificial satellites. Later, he became a fine theorist in astronomy, possessing a great amount of knowledge and always using cleverly his mathematical background. A prolific researcher and writer, Dr. Vasile Mioc is the author of four books and over 300 scientific papers, including over 40 ISI articles, mostly in the areas of celestial mechanics, dynamical systems, and paleoastronomy.

Extending some results of the classical celestial mechanics, Vasile Mioc treated in many of his papers some classes of post-Newtonian potentials such as: Schwarzschild, Fock, Seeliger, Lennard-Jones, Hannon-Heiles, Manev, generally quasi-homogeneous potentials. For these potentials, he applied various methods and refined techniques that conducted to results providing a unifying point of view (physical and mathematical) for many problems of particle dynamics. His research covered a wide range of mathematical problems that correspond to already analyzed concrete astronomical and physical circumstances.

As Director of the Astronomical Institute of the Romanian Academy, he fostered a work environment which promoted scientific excellence. Always tireless, he

encouraged his colleagues to achieve recognition through published work. Promoter of Romanian astronomy and science in general, he nurtured cooperations with Astronomical Institutes and researchers from all over the world.

An explorer of the other planets and stars, Vasile is now part of the celestial universe he was so passionate about. May his soul rest in peace!