THE ASTRONOMER NICOLAE DONICI. A DECODED ENIGMA.

BOOK REVIEW

Magda Stavinschi: *Astronomul Nicolae Donici. Enigme descifrate*, Ed. Curtea Veche, Bucuresti, 352 pp, 2015, in Romanian.

Curtea veche Publ.House published, in Romanian language, the book "Astronomul Nicolae Donici. Enigme Descifrate", wrote by Dr. Magda Stavinschi, known as passionate investigator of the history of astronomy. This book has the merit to highlight the tragic destiny of the Bessarabian astronomer that dedicated his life and wealth to the astronomy research, especially to solar physics. The book recovers dates and facts about this Romanian astronomer born in lands beyond the Prut river.

Nicolae Donici was a pioneer in solar observations on the ancient Romanian territory (when Bessarabia was part of Romania) and spent all his money to construct a private observatory. Nicolae Donici is a descendant of the renowned family of Doniceşti, his name remaining famous due to the great number of solar eclipses observed all over the world, from Spain to Cambogia, from Portugal to Crimea, US to Russia. Although Nicolae Donici was a passionate and true hunter of the eclipses, occupying a top position in the community of the solar eclipses observers, his activity entered in a cone of umbra for many years, being forgotten even in Romania.

Born near Chişinău, now the capital of the Republic of Moldavia, in 1874, he left the St. Petersbourg town in 1917, than he left Odessa in 1920, and finally Bessarabia in 1940, after the Bolsheviks occupation. But, the political events hunted him even in Romania that he left in 1944 to move in France.

The book presents the saga of this scientist, documents and interviews, an important testimony of a niece of his wife about the last moment of the life of the savant in 1960.

The name of the Romanian astronomer, a founder member of the International Astronomical Union, was assigned to the asteroid 9494 belonging to the belt asteroid, at the proposal of the author of this book, Dr. Magda Stavinschi.