

**A SHORT CULTURAL-ASTRONOMICAL HISTORY ON ASTEROIDS, COMETS AND METEORS IN ROMANIA.** Valentin Grigore<sup>1</sup> and Andrei Dorian Gheorghe<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Romanian Society for Meteors and Astronomy-SARM, (Calea Domneasca 214, bl.48, sc.A, ap.6, Targoviste, Dambovita, Romania, vali.grigore2@gmail.com), <sup>2</sup>Romanian Society for Meteors and Astronomy-SARM (Bd. Tineretului 53, bl.65, sc.B, et.1, ap.40, Sector 5, Bucharest, Romania, adgsarm@gmail.com)

*This poster will be adorned by significant quotations and images, and structured in 4 parts:*

**1. Meteors.** Meteors appeared in Romanian fundamental myths as falling stars (in *Miorita - The Little Ewe*) or as dragons (in *Zburatorul - The Flying Being*). The first descriptions of meteors were written in the 15<sup>th</sup> century by chroniclers from Transylvania province. The flight of a meteor is also described in the masterpiece of Romanian poetry, *Luceafarul - The Evening Star* by Mihai Eminescu (1883). Victor Anestin popularized meteor astronomy and published meteor observations in his magazine *Orion* (1907-1912). Vintila Siadbei made a doctorate thesis on meteors (1930s), and Ioan Corvin Sangeorzan and Virgil V. Scurtu tried a new method in meteor observations (1950s).

In 2012 ROSA (The Romanian Space Agency) launched the first Romanian nanosatellite, Goliat, to detect micrometeorites in orbit.

**2. Comets.** Seen by Romanian peasants as tailed stars announcing bad omens, the comets appeared in Romanian literature in Ion Luca Caragiale's humorous sketch *About The Comet* (1899) and in Gabriel Donna's sonnet *The Dead Ones Of The Sky* (1902), and were popularized by Victor Anestin (*Orion* magazine, 1907-1912). Later, Victor Daimaca discovered two comets (1940s), and Attila Kosa-Kiss received an award from the International Halley Watch for his studies (1986).

**3. Asteroids.** First described for the public at large by Victor Anestin (*Orion* magazine, 1907-1912), the asteroids interested important Romanian astronomers, such as

Arpad Pal, who wrote a theory of the motion of the asteroid Astraea (1950s) and Victor Nadolschi, who wrote a book, *Asteroids and Comets* (1971). In 2006, a Romanian astronomer established in the Occident, Ovidiu Vaduvescu, founded the EURONEAR (**E**uropean **N**ear **E**arth **A**steroids **R**esearch) project, for which he mainly works with Romanians from all over the world, discovering over 100 new asteroids from which a few tens follow the procedure of homologation.

**4. The Romanian Society for Meteors and Astronomy (SARM).** In 1993 Valentin Grigore founded SARM (serving as the national astronomical society) and its *Perseid* annual cultural-astronomical event (camp and summer school). SARM cooperated with the International Meteor Organization with visual and photographic observations, and works on meteor astronomy and astromythyology, yearly participating at the International Meteor Conferences and even organizing in Romania two IMCs (in 2000 and 2011—lectures available online). SARM members also made memorable photographs of comets (1996 Hyakutake, 1997 Hale-Bopp, 2007 McNaught and Holmes and others) and cooperated with the EURONEAR project. And culturally, SARM published more appreciated astropoetry anthologies on meteors, comets and asteroids.

**References:** [1] V. Scurtu (1986), *Looking for Stars*. [2] G. Calinescu (1941), *Romanian Literature History*. [3] *Orion* magazine (1907-1912). [4] I. Ottescu (1907), *Romanian Peasants' Beliefs in Stars and Sky*. [5] SARM publications (1996-2011). [6] ROSA reports (2012). [7] EURONEAR reports (2010-2011).