

SOME STORIES ON THE ORLOV CONFERENCES

Alla KORSUN'
Main Astronomical Observatory
252650, Kiev-22 (UKRAINE)
akorsun@mao.kiev.ua



A.Orlov in Paris in 1903-1904

The history of the Orlov conferences began in 1980. In that year the century of the birth of Aleksander Orlov was celebrated at the Main Astronomical Observatory of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (Kiev), which was founded by A.Orlov in 1944. The 100 anniversary of A.Orlov was mentioned in the UNESCO calendar of memorial dates. In Kiev the book "Geodynamics and Astrometry" (editor E.P.Fedorov) was published to this date, and the 1st Orlov conference "The study of the Earth as a planet by methods of astronomy, geodesy and geophysics" took place on September 29 - October 3, 1980. About 120 scientists (astronomers, geophysicists, geodesists) from the USSR and other countries took part. The scientific programme included:

1. Fundamental constants in astronomy and geodesy
2. Internal structure of the Earth
3. Gravitational field of the Earth, the Moon and planets
4. Geodynamic processes
5. New methods and techniques for studying the Earth's dynamics.

At the 1th Orlov conference the decision was taken to hold such conferences once in six years (this is the period of variations of polar motion) in the cities which were connected with Orlov's scientific activities.

In Kiev A.Orlov founded the Main Astronomical Observatory and was its Director in 1944-1948, 1951-1952 .

The 2nd Orlov conference took place in Poltava, September 29 - October 3, 1986. In this town A.Orlov founded the Poltava Gravimetric Observatory in 1926, and he was its director in 1926-1934, 1938-1944. About 100 scientists from different countries participated in that conference, and the Orlov conferences obtained the international status. The scientific programme of the conference was the same as of the 1st one.

The 3rd Orlov conference was held in Odessa (September 7-12, 1992). There were 110 participants. At the Odessa Astronomical Observatory A.Orlov worked in 1912-1924, and he was its director, from 1912 A.Orlov was a professor of the Novorossiisk University in Odessa.

The 4th Orlov conference is held in Paris, as the Orlov session of JOURNEES-98. The scientific programme is dedicated to the discussions on the problem of the secular polar motion.

In Paris A.Orlov worked on probation in Sorbonne and College de France in 1903-1904. At the Paris Observatory Dr. Nicolas Stoyko (a student of A.Orlov at the Novorossiisk University in Odessa) worked in 1924-1964. Dr.N.Stoyko was a director BIH in 1944-1964.

The Proceedings of the first three Orlov conferences "THE STUDY OF THE EARTH AS A PLANET BY METHODS OF ASTRONOMY, GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS" were published in Kiev, in 1982, 1988, 1994, respectively.

