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Isaac Newton Institute of Chile: The fifteenth anniversary of its "Yugoslavia" Branch

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In 2002, the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile established in Belgrade its "Yugoslavia" Branch, one of 15 branches in nine countries in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. On the occasion of fifteen years since its foundation, the activities of "Yugoslavia" Branch of the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile are briefly reviewed.

Keywords: General: history and philosophy of astronomy

1 Introduction

At the beginning of 2002, the Chilean astronomer, architect, businessman, and Director and founder of the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (INI, Fig. 1), Gonzalo Alcaino, proposed to me (at that time I was Director of Belgrade Astronomical Observatory) to found a Branch of INI in Belgrade. After exchange of several letters, fifteen years ago, on 11th April 2002, we signed an

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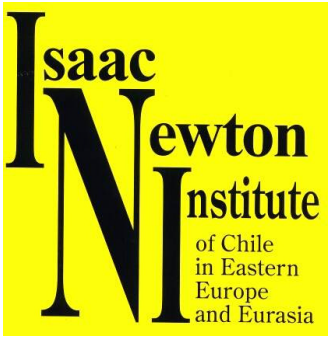
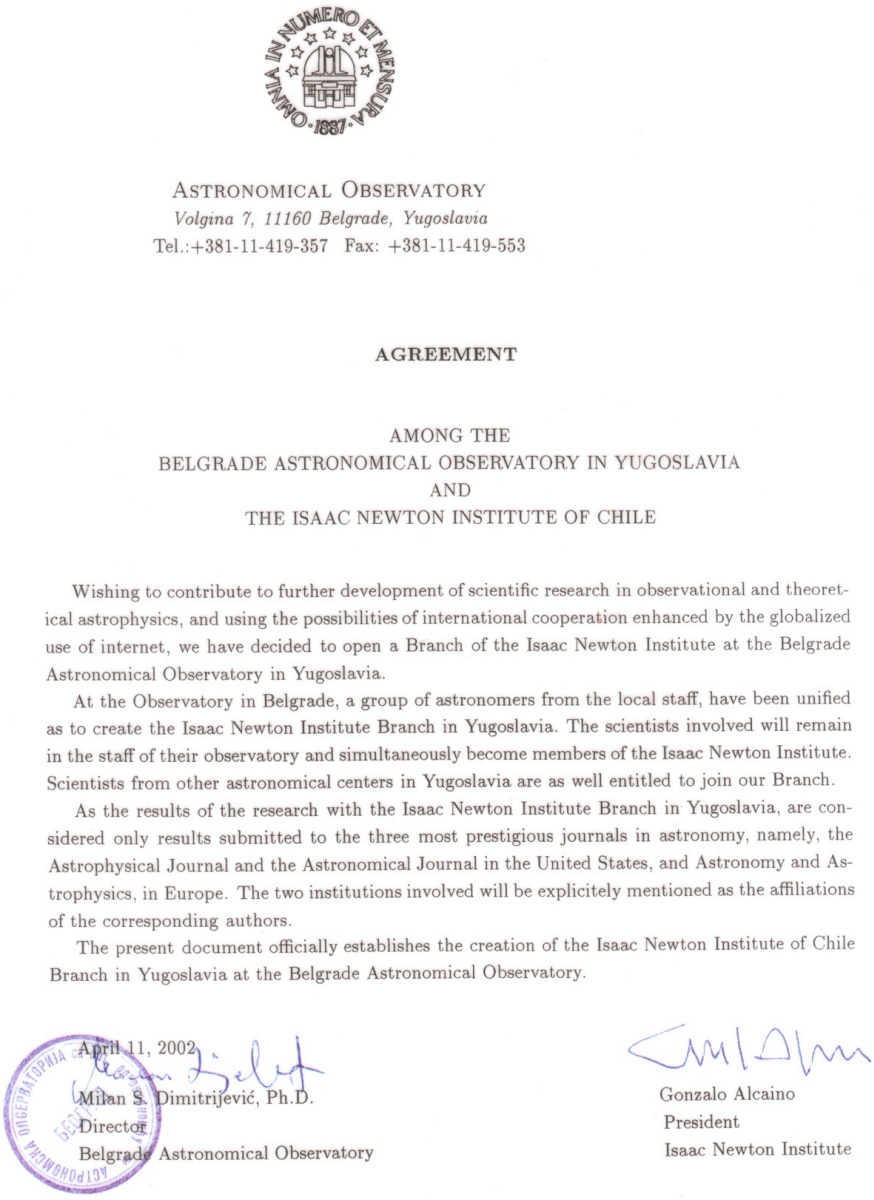


Figure 1

agreement on the establishment of a Branch of this Institute in Yugoslavia (Fig. 2). The circumstances leading up to it are presented in detail in the journal "Vasiona" (Universe, Dimitrijević (2002)). The initial years, as well as the first ten years of the Branch, are described in Dimitrijević et al. (2005) and Dimitrijević (2013, 2014).

Gonzalo Alcaino founded the Isaac Newton Institute (INI) of Chile (http://www.ini.cl/) in 1978. This is an international astronomical institute with the headquarters



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AGREEMENT

AMONG THE
BELGRADE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY IN YUGOSLAVIA
AND
THE ISAAC NEWTON INSTITUTE OF CHILE

Wishing to contribute to further development of scientific research in observational and theoretical astrophysics, and using the possibilities of international cooperation enhanced by the globalized use of internet, we have decided to open a Branch of the Isaac Newton Institute at the Belgrade Astronomical Observatory in Yugoslavia.

At the Observatory in Belgrade, a group of astronomers from the local staff, have been unified as to create the Isaac Newton Institute Branch in Yugoslavia. The scientists involved will remain in the staff of their observatory and simultaneously become members of the Isaac Newton Institute. Scientists from other astronomical centers in Yugoslavia are as well entitled to join our Branch.

As the results of the research with the Isaac Newton Institute Branch in Yugoslavia, are considered only results submitted to the three most prestigious journals in astronomy, namely, the Astrophysical Journal and the Astronomical Journal in the United States, and Astronomy and Astrophysics, in Europe. The two institutions involved will be explicitely mentioned as the affiliations of the corresponding authors.

The present document officially establishes the creation of the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile Branch in Yugoslavia at the Belgrade Astronomical Observatory.

April 11, 2002

Milan S. Dimitrijević, Ph.D.
Director
Belgrade Astronomical Observatory

Gonzalo Alcaino
President
Isaac Newton Institute

Figure 2 Agreement between the Belgrade Astronomical Observatory in Yugoslavia and the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile.

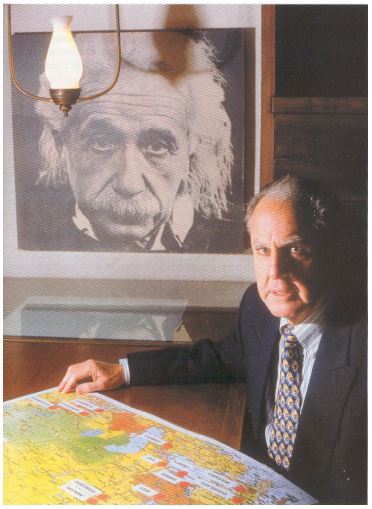


Figure 3 Gonzalo Alcaino with map of INI branches.

in Santiago. According to the formulation of its founder, the two major goals of this non-profit organization are: "offering scientists an opportunity to be published in the most prestigious scholarly journals worldwide and improving motivation to pursue science in the countries with insufficient funding for scientific activities" (Samus, 2016). In the first period, from 1978 to 1992, Chilean astronomers worked in the INI, observing on the international telescopes of Cerro Tololo, Las Campanas and La Silla, and they published over 100 papers. The Institute's policy was firstly to publish in the three leading astronomical journals of highest rank: The Astronomical Journal, founded in the USA in 1849, The Astrophysical Journal (ApJ), founded in the USA in 1895, including The Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series (ApJS) and The Astrophysical Journal Letters (ApJL) and Astronomy and Astrophysics (A&A), founded in 1969 by unification of a number of European journals into a single one. Later, also Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (MNRAS), founded in the UK in 1827, has been added. In 1992, the first branch outside Chile was established in Moscow and later the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile in Eastern Europe and Eurasia has established 15 branches in nine countries: Armenia (Alcaino and Mickaelian, 2015), Bulgaria, Crimea, Kazakhstan, Kiev, Moscow (Samus, 2016), Odessa (Kovtyukh, 2015), Poland, Pushchino, St. Petersburg, Special Astrophysical Observatory, Kazan, "Yugoslavia" (the traditional name of the Belgrade branch), Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (Fig. 3).

Gonzalo Alcaino Barros was born in Santiago, Chile on 28 May 1936. An architect and an astronomer by education, he has worked mostly in astronomy, in the field of globular clusters. He had around 400 nights of observations with the largest telescopes installed in Chile at Cerro Tololo, the Carnegie institution and ESO La Silla and Paranal (Mickaelian, 2016) and published around 200 papers in AJ, ApJ, and A&A. Alcaino also had contacts and meetings with some of the most outstanding scientists and astronomers of our time, for example, the famous Dutch astronomer Jan Oort (1900–1992) and Allan Sandage (1926–2010) (see Figs. 2 and 3 in Samus (2016)).



Figure 4 Gonzalo with Florence Griffith Joyner (1959–1998). Current world record holder in 100 m and 200 m.

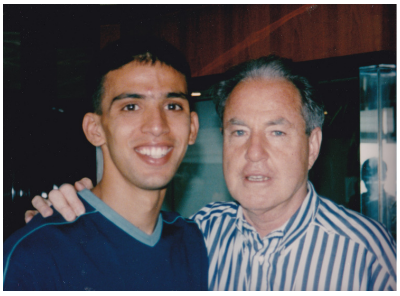


Figure 5 Gonzalo with Hicham el Guerrouj. Current world record holder in 1500 m and Olympic champion in 2004 in Athens Olympics.



Figure 6 Gonzalo in Seoul Olympics (1988).



Figure 7 Belgrade, 9 September 2002, Aleksandar Kubičela, Milan S. Dimitrijević, Zorica Cvetković, Gonzalo Alcaino.

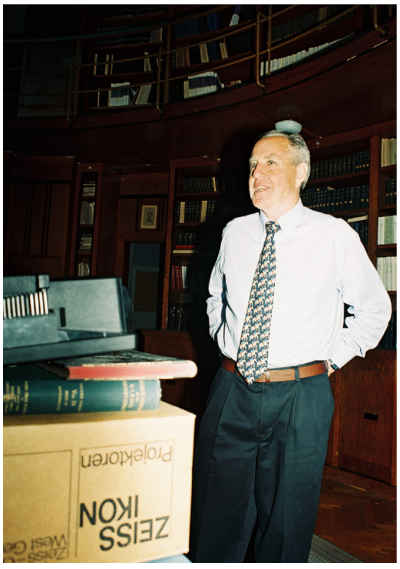


Figure 8 Gonzalo Alcaino in the Library of Astronomical Observatory in Belgrade, 9 September 2002.

Besides astronomy his passions are the sport of athletics and the study of human nature. He reported, as a sports journalist, on nine Olympic Games, nine World Championships (Mickaelian, 2016) and more than fifty international meetings in Europe, the first in 1955 (mail of Alcaino, 1.03.2017). Mickaelian (2016) also noticed that Alcaino was the first Chilean to participate in eight major world marathons, in Boston 1962, 1980, New York 1984, Rotterdam 1986, 1987, 1989, Helsinki 1986 and London 1989 (see Figs. 4–6).

Concerning human nature and behavior he has published three books in Spanish: *On Time and Happiness*, *The Silence at the Eye of the Storm*, and *How to Manage*

your Own Life. The last two books have been translated into Russian and the last one also in Serbian.

Gonzalo Alcaino offered me the post of Resident Director of the INI Yugoslav Branch which I accepted with gratitude. He visited Belgrade and Astronomical Observatory in September 2002 (see Figs. 7–8), and personally met and discussed with each member of the Branch.

The Associates of the Branch "Yugoslavia", who founded it, were Edi Bon, Srdjan Z. Bukvić, Zorica Cvetković, Miodrag Dačić, Milan S. Dimitrijević (Resident Director), Stevan Djeniže, Gojko R. Djurašević, Sanja R. Erkapić, Ljubinko M. Ignjatović, Predrag Jovanović, Aleksandar Dj. Kubičela, Anatolij A. Mihajlov, Vladimir Milosavljević, Nenad Milovanović, Slobodan Ninković, Dragomir Olević, Luka Č. Popović, Srdjan S. Samurović, Zoran Simić, Aleksandar Srećković, Nataša M. Stanić and Dragana Tankosić (see Figs. 9 and 10). They were later joined by: Dejan Urošević (second session of the Assembly – 30$^{\rm th}$ January 2003), Dragana Ilić, Andjelka Kovačević, Jelena Kovačević Dojčinović, Nataša (Gavrilović) Bon (fourth session of the Assembly on March 5$^{\rm th}$, 2007), Darko Jevremović (sixth session of the Assembly on 16th July 2008). In 2009, Marko Stalevski has been admitted and on 17$^{\rm th}$ November, on the eighth session of the Assembly, Sonja Vidojević. Vladimir Srećković,

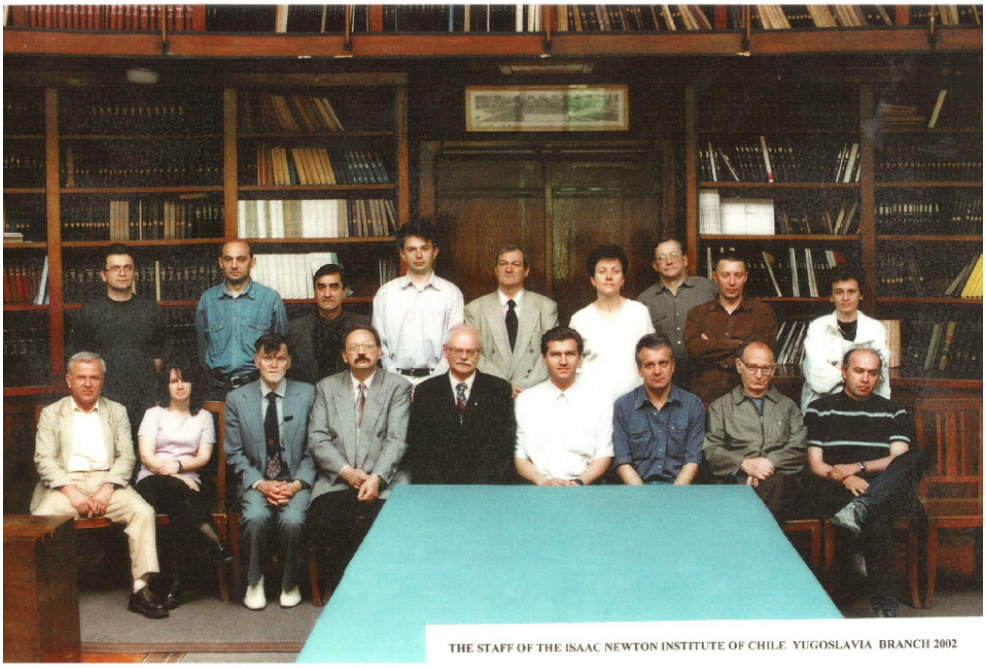


Figure 9 The staff of the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile Yugoslavia Branch, 2002. Sitting: Dragomir Olević, Dragana Tankosić, Slobodan Ninković. Stevan Djeniže, Milan S. Dimitrijević, Luka Č. Popović, Gojko Djurašević, Aleksandar Kubičela, Srdjan Bukvić. Standing: Zoran Simić, Predrag Jovanović, Miodrag Dačić, Vladimir Milosavljević, Aleksandar Srećkovi; Zorica Cvetković, Anatolij Mihajlov, Ljubinko Ignjatović, Sanja Erkapić. Foto by Jovan Grujić.



Figure 10 Session of the Yugoslavia Branch, 16 July 2008. Zorica Cvetković, Edi Bon, Ljubinko Ignjatović, Anatolij Mihajlov, Milan S. Dimitrijević, Jelena Kovačević.

Duško Borka and Vesna Borka Jovanović joined in September 2012, Aleksandra Nina has been admitted on the eleventh session of the Assembly, on the 16$^{\rm th}$ May 2013, and Miroslava Vukčević, on the twelfth, on 20$^{\rm th}$ March 2014. In the meantime Aleksandar Kubičela and Anatolij Mihajlov passed away and Marko Stalevski left the Branch, so that on 1$^{\rm st}$ of September 2017, "Yugoslavia" Branch has 36 members.

The overview per year of the number of papers published by Belgrade scientists, members of the Branch in A&A, ApJ (including ApJS and ApJL), AJ and MNRAS is given in Table 1. Within the period 11$^{\rm th}$ April 2002 – 1$^{\rm st}$ September 2017, the total number of the published articles is 140. The number of papers published by each member is shown in Table 2. One can see that Luka Č. Popović published 43 papers and that eleven members published ten or more articles.

After fifteen years of work, we can conclude that the great merit of Gonzalo Alcaino is that he assembled the most creative scientists in Serbia working in astronomy, supported and helped their work and stimulated them to publish in the most prestigious international journals. If we take into account 140 articles published in the most prestigious astronomical journals, we can see that the Branch "Yugoslavia" of the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile, created and supported by Gonzalo Alcaino, is scientifically the most productive astronomical institution in Serbia which gave a significant contribution to this science and has the richest list of scientific results in astronomy in Serbia. Also the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile, with about 300 astronomers who published up to now almost 900 scientific papers in the leading astronomical jounals, is among the most productive astronomical research centers in the world.

Personally, I am very grateful to Gonzalo Alcaino for his noble support to astronomy and stimulation of scientific research of high quality in Serbia and other countries, since science and its fruits promise a better future to our children and to humanity as a whole.

Table 1 The total number of articles per year published by the staff in A&A, ApJ,ApJS, ApJL, AJ and MNRAS in 2002–2017.

Name	A&A	ApJ	ApJS	ApJL	AJ	MNRAS	Total
2002	4						4
2003	14	2	1				17
2004	12						12
2005	4						4
2006	1	1					2
2007	3	2	1			6	
2008					1		1
2009	2	1			1	3	7
2010	4	2	1	1		2	10
2011	1	1	2	1		1	6
2012	3	3	1			9	16
2013	4	1	1	1	2	8	17
2014	2				3	7	12
2015		2	1	1	1	3	8
2016			2		3	5	10
2017	1		1		2	4	8
Grand total							140

Table 2 The number of articles published by the staff in A&A, ApJ, AJ and MNRAS within the framework of INI in 2002–2017.

Name	Number
Luka Č. Popović	43
Milan S. Dimitrijević	37
Dejan Urošević	24
Gojko Djurašević	21
Dragana Ilić	15
Ljubinko Ignjatović	14
Anatolij Mihajlov	14
Predrag Jovanović	11
Andjelka Kovačević	11
Stevan Djeniže	10
Zoran Simić	10
Zorica Cvetković	9
Jelena Kovačević Dojčinović	8
Srdjan Bukvić	7
Aleksandar Srećković	7
Vladimir Srećković	7
Edi Bon	5
Sanja Erkapić	5
Vladimir Milosavljević	4
Marko Stalevski	4
Nataša (Gavrilović) Bon	3
Miodrag Dačić	3

Table 2 (continued)

Name	Number
Slobodan Ninković	3
Darko Jevremović	2
Aleksandar Kubičela	2
Nenad Milovanović	2
Saša Simić	2
Sonja Vidojević	2
Duško Borka	1
Vesna Borka Jovanović	1
Dragomir Olević	1
Nataša Stanić	1
Dragana Tankosić	1
Mirjana Vukčević	1

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