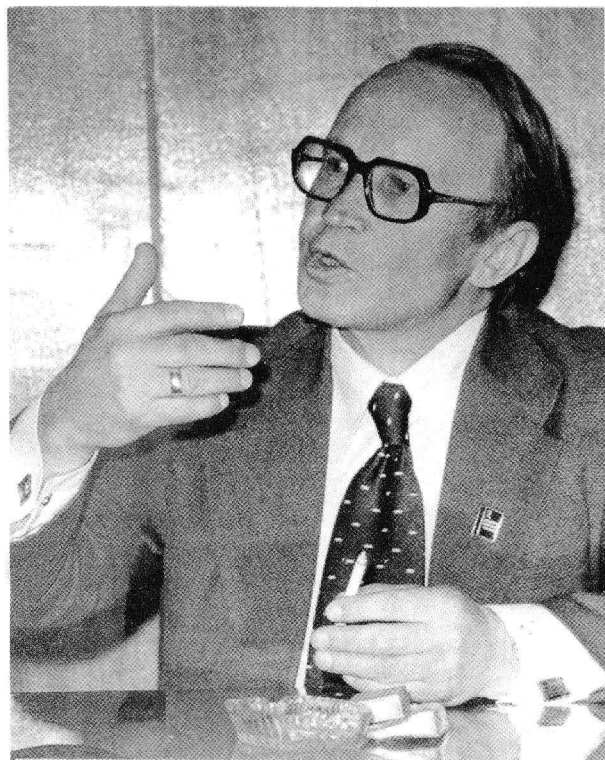


Ivan Mikheevich Kopylov

14.10.1928 — 29.07.2000



Ivan Mikheevich Kopylov, the first director of the Special Astrophysical Observatory of Russian Academy of Sciences passed away untimely at the age of 72. I.M. Kopylov had managed the Observatory since the day of its foundation in 1966 until 1985.

I.M. Kopylov graduated from Leningrad State University in 1950 to be an astronomer. During his work at the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory for 16 years he became a recognized specialist in the area of studying stars and development of methods of investigation of astronomical objects.

In 1966 he was appointed the first director of the Special Astrophysical Observatory and headed the work over placing in service the world's first large telescope with the 6 m mirror on an alt-azimuth mounting. Since 1988 until his death he had worked at the Main Astronomical Observatory.

All research activity of I.M. Kopylov was actually concerned with observations at large optical telescopes, development and mastering of spectral facili-

ties. He made an accurate quantitative two-dimensional spectral classification of hot stars, carried out a detailed investigation of the fine structure of the diagram "spectrum — absolute magnitude", compiled a catalogue of rotational velocities of stars (the rotation for the groups of peculiar stars as well as inside individual stellar clusters was studied), determined physical characteristics of hot supergiants, fulfilled mass spectroscopic investigations of chemically peculiar stars and normal stars in open clusters, examined a number of optical components of X-ray sources, studied spectral manifestations of relativistic jets of SS 433.

The establishment of the Special Astrophysical Observatory was certainly the main deed of I.M. Kopylov. He did this work with a sense of high responsibility and civil duty. The telescopes operating now, the dwellings erected on the banks of the river Big Zelenchuk are the witnesses and monuments of his selfless labour.

Under his leadership the community of the Observatory could provide examination, mastering and performance of the world's largest telescope. Under his guidance the telescope was equipped with the present-day light detectors. He initiated the investigation of stars and galaxies at the Observatory. He was the director of SAO for 19 years, and up to the present time our Observatory has lived and worked in accordance with the rules elaborated by Ivan Mikheevich Kopylov. For the work on creation and putting into operation of the 6 m telescope (BTA) he was awarded an Order of the Red Banner of Labour. Being on the staff of the Main Astronomical Observatory (Pulkovo, St.Petersburg) he permanently displayed a keen interest in the affairs of SAO. I.M.Kopylov was an honest man, a man of principle. Whenever he would undertake some research, industrial or social work he would put all his efforts, energy, soul and enthusiasm into it.

Fond memories of Ivan Mikheevich Kopylov will live long in our hearts.

Staff members of the Special Astrophysical Observatory