

## ARTEMIJ ROBERTOVICH ORBINSKY – ASTRONOMER, EDUCATOR, PUBLISHER

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A.R.Orbinsky was born August 3(15) 1869 in Odessa. His father, R.V.Orbinsky, was a well-known educator, financier, public figure.



In 1887 Orbinsky finished Rischelevskaya gymnasium and entered Novorossiysky University. He grew interested in astronomy and became the pupil of outstanding astrophysicist A.K.Kononovich.

In 1892 A.R.Orbinsky finished the University with the gold medal for the student writing and Kononovich offered him a post-graduate studentship. During his post-graduate study he worked hard, read a lot of scientific books and articles, worked at the Observatory of Novorossiysky University and at the Pulkovo Observatory. Working there he offered the new original method of mass definition of radial speeds of the stars using the prism camera. This method is still one of the best.



In 1896 Orbinsky was invited by the prominent Russian astronomer A.A.Belopolsky to take part at the observation of the total solar eclipse in the village Orlovskoe on the Amur river. Because of that his post-graduate study lasted for one more year.

Director of Pulkovo Observatory O.A.Baklund decided to organize in Odessa the Southern branch of the Observatory. Orbinsky took an active part in the creation of the branch and in the organizing of it work. At first he became the supernumerary astronomer and beginning from 1902 – the senior astronomer of the Odessa branch. During his work Orbinsky carried the vast series of the observations, in particular he observed by absolute method the right ascensions of four hundreds stars of the wide terrestrial equator zone. These stars were added to the list of the stars of the Southern sky and then included into into the interim star catalog (1915). Among those who helped Orbinsky in his observations was V.V.Lebedintsev, the cousin of the world known physicist George Gamow.

In 1908, after the tragic death of the prominent astronomer A.P.Gansky, Orbinsky was send on an official trip to Simeiz branch of Pulkivo Observatory. He did a lot for the organizing of the scientific work at the branch.

Orbinsky held his position of the senior astronomer of the Southern branch of Pulkovo in Odessa till 1912 when it was moved to Nikolaev.

The scientist did not want to leave his native city and his native University. From 1899 till 1920 he was lecturer in various astronomical courses: theoretical, applied and spherical astronomy, celestial mechanics, geodesy, special course of the theory of perturbation.

In 1911-1920 he also lectured at the Higher Women Courses, for two years (1909-1911) he was the secretary of the physical and mathematical faculty.

Orbinsky was also a public figure, in 1918 he was the deputy mayor of Odessa, took an active part in the organizing of the Odessa Polytechnic Institute.

In 1920 the reform of the Ukrainian Higher School began, the universities were liquidated, and the new educational institutions organized. In 1920 Orbinsky

became a professor, at first he lectured astronomy at the Odessa Institute of Physics and Mathematics and then in 1921-1924 at the Odessa Institute of People's Education. He continued to work as a senior astronomer at the Odessa Astronomical Observatory.

Besides his educational and scientific activity Orbinsky was one of the organizers and member of the publishing house «Mathesis». «Mathesis» was the best publishing house of Russian Empire specialized in scientific and popular scientific literature. Orbinsky translated and edited twenty two books in astronomy and physics. His translations were recognized as masterpieces.

February 21, 1928 A.R.Orbinsky died of a heart attack. He was only 59.

His grandson Arthur Anthony Page (1922-2011) was a well-known Australian amateur astronomer. He worked in the field of astrophysical phenomena relating to Flare Stars. He was the first Australian amateur astronomer who become a member of the prestigious International Astronomical Union (1985). The Berenice and Arthur Page Medal awarded in his and his wife honor is given by the Astronomical Society of Australia to distinguished amateur astronomers who contribute to scientific astronomy.

A.R.Orbinsky and A.A.Page has the Asteroids named after them – 11361 Orbinsky and 11516 Arthurpage, discovered by the Japanese astronomer Eiji Kato.

