

# VLADIMIR PLATONOVICH TSESSEVICH – ASTRONOMER-ROMANTIC

M.Yu.Volyanska, V.G.Karetnikov, O.E.Mandel

Odessa Astronomical Observatory, Odessa National University  
T.G. Shevchenko Park, Odessa 65014 Ukraine

October 11, 2007 marks 100th anniversary of the birthday of the outstanding astronomer, the corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Honored Scientist of the USSR, Doctor of physical and mathematical sciences, Professor Vladimir Platonovich Tsessevich. Since 1944 till the end of his days he was Head of the chair of astronomy of the I.I.Mechnikov Odessa State University and the Director of the University's Observatory.

Vladimir Platonovich was born on October 11, 1907 in Kiev (he was christened in the Cathedral of Saint Vladimir) in the family of actors: then already known opera singer Platon Tsessevich, later – the National actor of Russian Federation, and young opera actress Elizaveta Kuznetsova, who later worked as a teacher. Soon family broke up, the son remained with the mother, together with whom he lived all his life, taking gentle care of her. The mother imparted in the son the feeling of deep respect to the father – the man talented and not ordinary.

In his early years V.P.Tsessevich lived in Odessa and till 1914 studied at school. Having moved to Petrograd, he continued study in a Real school, then at Uniform labour school. At the end of 1920 he became astronomy amateur and a member of the youth section of the Russian Society of the amateurs "Mirovedenie" and began to observe heaven bodies. In 1922 V.P.Tsessevich, less than 15 years old, entered the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics of the Leningrad (then Petrograd) University. He was helped to overcome the age qualification by the known astronomer professor S.P.Glazenap (as Vladimir Platonovich himself recollected later). When 17 years old, he published his first scientific work in the best magazine of that time (*Astronomische Nachrichten*, B.221, No.14, S.230-232, 1924). He graduated from the University in 1927 and continued studying in post-graduate in Pulkovo observatory under supervision of G.A.Tikhov, become famous later for studies of the physical nature of Mars. The ways in science of the post-graduate student and his supervisor parted, V.P.Tsessevich conducted scientific researches independently; however, through all his life he talked with great respect about G.A.Tikhov.

After finishing post-graduate studies V.P.Tsessevich worked in the Leningrad University, taught astronomy and mathematics in a number of other high schools of the City on Neva. But his basic interests were connected to variable stars, studying which was the subject of the many of his scientific works. Even when a young man, he came several times in summer with a group of the young amateur astronomers to Odessa, "where the heavens are clear long". In that time the outstanding astronomer A.Ya.Orlov managed the Observatory. Strict and even severe from the outside, A.Ya.Orlov always patronized the young people, who were fond of science. He gave tools and accommodation to Leningrad's amateurs, was interested in their successes and gave to them advices and recommendations. More than once Vladimir Platonovich recollected the beneficial influence of A.Ya.Orlov's personality on the formation of him as a scientist.

V.P.Tsessevich was the actual founder of Astronomical Observatory in Stalinabad (nowadays, the Institute of Astrophysics of the Academy of Science of Tadzhikistan) and in 1933-1937 years – its director. In the same years he worked as a dean of the Physics and Mathematics Faculty of the Night Pedagogical Institute in Stalinabad. On returning to Leningrad in 1937-1942 years he was a scientific fellow of the Astronomical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and a professor of N.M. Pokrovsky Pedagogical Institute. Having begun observing variable stars in 1922, V.P.Tsessevich already made about 200 thousand only visual estimations of the brightness of the variable stars, published many scientific articles. And in 1937 he was given the scientific degree of the Candidate of Physical and Mathematical sciences and the scientific rank of the Professor.

The war of 1941-1945 years found V.P.Tsessevich in Leningrad, he was blockade-survivor, and in 1942 was moved to Stalinabad (nowadays, Dushanbe, Tadzhikistan). The blockade has left a deep trace in his life, in Leningrad his daughter Marina died (he dedicated to her memory the book "What and how to observe in the sky?" which sustained 6 lifetime editions). At the same time his two adopted sons died. Later he brought up

adopted daughter Regina, who lives in Kiev, and the daughter of his own Anna (mother E.P. Gladun), who lives in Odessa. From words of the colleagues, who knew "the Professor" (he was called that name often by his students and colleagues) during the first post-war years, he within several years after war constantly carried in the voluminous bag a loaf of bread – the memory of a blockade-survivor did not give him rest.

In Dushanbe V.P.Tsessevich taught in the Odessa high schools, evacuated there, and together with them, in 1944, he came back to Odessa, to which he had grown fond of since young years. He was invited to the University, where he at first became a head of the Chair of the Astronomy, and then was appointed the Director of the University's Astronomical Observatory. (In the same year at the Kazan University he defended a dissertation for the scientific degree of a Doctor of physical and mathematical sciences). The hard job of fixing the work of the Chair and the Observatory in postwar years lay on the shoulders of V.P.Tsessevich. The publishing was renewed. For several years in 1950s V.P.Tsessevich was also a dean of physical and mathematical faculty of the University. Besides, he taught in the Odessa Institute of the Engineers of a Marine Sea Fleet (nowadays Odessa Marine University) and in the Institute of Refrigerating Industry (nowadays the Academy of Cold), was one of the founders of Chair of the Nautical Astronomy in the Odessa High Marine school (nowadays Odessa Marine academy). In 1948 he was selected the member-correspondent to the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine – at this time (1948-1950) combining jobs he worked also as the Director of the Main Astronomical Observatory of the Ukraine, where he established the scientific direction of studying of the variable stars.

In the second half of the 50s of the last century the period of rapid development of the Odessa Observatory begins. From July, 1957 till December, 1958 the International Geophysical Year (IGY) took place under the aegis of the international scientific organizations, which basic task was the all-round research of the influence of the solar activity on processes in the atmosphere of the Earth and circumterrestrial space. Participation in such forum, the process of preparation to it gave a strong push to the development of the Observatory, strengthened its scientific authority.

By this time the design of a meteoric patrol with shutter of the variable section was developed by the scientific employee of the Observatory E.N.Kramer (subsequently by doctor of physical and mathematical sciences, professor) for the research of the atmosphere at heights of 60-120 km by the methods of the meteor astronomy. This design allowed with great accuracy to record the time of the flight of a meteor, taken on a photo snapshot. Having photos from two spatially remote points, it is possible to calculate an orbit of a meteoric particle and characteristics of the atmosphere

on a site of its flight. The design of the meteoric patrol received an approval of the scientific public, and it was decided to use such devices in the period of IGY.

It is necessary for the effective work of the patrol, as a minimum, two observation point. The Observatory in Odessa was hardly a choice as one of them because of the ambient light illumination of the sky by the city lights. The question of building the stations in the country aroused. And the organizational talent of Vladimir Platonovich showed itself in its full: his purposefulness, energy, the gift to persuade very different people – from Soviet and the Party officials to the workers, who were carrying out the orders on manufacturing the equipment. Already in 1956 the station in Kryzhanovka in the suburbs of Odessa begins to work, the observation point in the Botanical Garden of the University in "Small Fountain" area is organized. The building of the last and, probably, the most favorite child of V.P.Tsessevich starts – the observation station in the village Mayaki, 40 km from Odessa on the banks of the river Dnestr.

While preparing to IGY and during the implementation of its program it became possible to expand considerable the staff of the Observatory, increasing it by the graduates from the University. V.P.Tsessevich managed to unite the team around solving the tasks of construction and implementation of scientific programs, to pass to the employees his unquenchable enthusiasm. The systematic observations on meteor patrol and seven-camera astrograph began in 1957 on the Mayaki station. An ex-student of V.P.Tsessevich, the talented astronomer S.V. Rublev, was appointed the director of the station, later he was a Deputy Director of the Special Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in the Northern Caucasus (near stanitsa Zelenchukskaya).

The Professor was usually very attached to his ex-students, always was ready to support them, defend and, if necessary, help financially. Parting with them, especially their transfer to work in other organizations, the Professor took it close to heart painfully, often the relationship stopped for some time. Unfortunately, there were some people, who played that string in the character of V.P.Tsessevich, deepening the pain from the parting. Although, the employees, who had left the Observatory, in their majority understood this feature in V.P.Tsessevich's nature and in time the relations, as a rule, mended.

Many employees of the Observatory, students of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics of the University, let alone the students of the Astronomy specialization, took the direct part in the construction of the Mayaki station, and all this without and administrative pressure. The Professor together with everybody else took part in filling the foundations with concrete, building the walls of the pavilions, designing the garden, planting the trees and bushes. Vladimir Platonovich tried

by all means to take his guests, often from abroad, to the Mayaki station, sometimes even violating the regime, because that area at the time was closed for the foreigners.

If Mayaki is the favorite child of V.P.Tsessevich, then seven-camera astrograph is his favorite device in Mayaki. The professor himself designed its project, carried out the control over the manufacturing of the device in the University workshops, patiently watched, that the device worked regularly and productively, that the images of the stellar sky, taken on the astrograph in two parts of spectrum, were used effectively in the scientific work, gave instructions on the modernization of the tool. It has to be mentioned, that before this tool V.P.Tsessevich built an astrograph in the Stalinabad Observatory, and in Odessa it was already his third astrograph. Earlier he created "2-camera" astrograph and then the astrograph "Hedgehog" that had 3 cameras. At all, before the 7-camera astrograph about 10000 of photo plates with the images of the stellar sky were collected in Odessa in 1945-1957.

V.P.Tsessevich was the organizer of introduction in Odessa of electro-photometric observations of variable stars, and in the Observatory was created second in the world Depository of electro-photometric observations of variable stars. At him in the Observatory has arisen and the established new direction for Observatory on stellar spectroscopy, very wide themes on the base of economical agreements on creation spectrophotometric standards and positional and photometric observations of the artificial satellites of the Earth. The means received from performance of contractual works essentially have increased opportunities in updating park of devices and coming into being of new directions of researches.

To 1980s Mayaki turned into modern observatory, which allowed conducting scientific researches at a level, answering to international standards. On the basis of the Observatory in Mayaki a number of All-Soviet Union and international programs was carried out, as within IGY, International Year of Geophysical Cooperation (IGCY), International Quiet Sun Year (IQSY), as according to separate agreed plans (for example, the plan of cooperative observations of the flare stars together with British observatory Jodrell Bank).

Giving all himself to work, living for the long periods of time in his study (I'm the real "office" scientist, – joked he on this occasion), being unpretentious in meals and clothes (though, he knew sense in both), Vladimir Platonovich could not always understand the people, who had any household inconveniences. So, he quite sincerely spoke to the employees, complaining on constrained housing conditions in Mayaki: "But you see you have one more room, which is at your orders round- the- clock – your office. There it is possible to read and to work, and to study".

V.P.Tsessevich loved youth, cared of it, supported

the scientific initiative, trusted. Everyone, whom the destiny reduced with him, will find in the life episodes confirming validity of these words. In 1956 there was a great opposition of Mars. There were not many scientific employees in observatory staff then and in interesting observations V.P.Tsessevich involved the students and even of the schoolboys. Sketches of a surface of Mars the young astronomers made, observing a planet in reflector, created by inhabitant of Odessa – known optic and designer of astronomical tools N.G.Ponomarev. Then under the insistence of V.P.Tsessevich these observations were processed and are published. It was joyful event for all participants.

By the same unforgettable event was the preparation for observations and then observations of the first artificial heavenly body – artificial Earth satellite (AES), October 4, 1957, started in the USSR. V.P.Tsessevich himself frequently participated in training employment of group of the observers, took a keen interest in results of the further observations. After start first AES was found out, that their brightness varies. V.P. first has executed photometric observations of AES, has stated the basic ideas on use of such observations and then has transferred the further development of a theme to the post-graduate student V.M.Grigorevsky. For last photometry of AES and the problems, connected to it, have made the basic direction of scientific activity, became a subject of his candidate and doctor's dissertations.

There are some more facts on memoirs of the authors describing the attitude V.P.Tsessevich to youth. Per student's years the group of three men, among them one of the authors of the present article (O.E.Mandel), carried out collective observations of variable stars with the help Zeiss binocular. At change of the observer at an eyepiece someone unintentionally has hooked on a support, binocular has fallen, on a pipe was formed the dent. We very much worried that happen. However V.P.Tsessevich, having established, that the incident took place during work, but not soiling, has not discharged anybody of observations, has disposed and in the future to give out to us the tool. One of the authors (O.E.Mandel) in the period, when V.P.Tsessevich supervised over Chair of High mathematics in the Institute of the engineers of Marine fleet, conducted there on conditions of hourly payment practical employment. Unexpectedly V.P.Tsessevich is directed to long business trip in USA. "Will read instead of me course under the theory of functions complex variable and theory of a field", – the Professor speaks. "But I in general yet did not read rates of lectures"! "Anything, there is the abstract of a rate for you, you have some pedagogical experience, and training others, and yourself will learn something. So for the post-graduate student it only will be useful".

Distinctive feature V.P.Tsessevich was trust to the employees, belief that by them on forces the decision

of the diversified tasks. This conviction was based that all material opportunities of observatory were given in the order to the students, employees. Democracy of Vladimir Platonovich, his almost constant stay in observatory provided an opportunity of advices practically at any time of day. At many astronomical conferences of a delegation from Odessa were one of most numerous and young on age.

In 1965 to V.P.Tsessevich there has arrived the deputy Director building S of Academy of Sciences of the USSR O.B.Vasiliev (director there was a corresponding member of AS USSR O.A.Mel'nikov). It was time already to make sectoring of the base for a six-meter telescope, and exact coordinates of an installation site of a telescope (in mountains, at height 2100) yet was not appointed. The geodetic organizations were loaded, and not so aspired to determine astro-point in difficult conditions of high-mountain, and the matter was urgent. V.P.Tsessevich has offered to execute work by forces of the Odessa astronomers. At this time in observatory still worked known astrometrist, possessing experience of definition of astro-points, Boris Vladimirovich Novopashenny. He has agreed to head expedition, however shortly before departure was found out, that on a condition of health seven-ten years' Boris Vladimirovich can not participate in expedition. Then Vladimir Platonovich charges performance of work to three young research fellows, and he becomes at the head of expedition. The astro-point was determined. The construction works have begun in time.

V.P.Tsessevich twice fled to town Mineralnye Vody, reached on mountain roads in stanitsa Zelenchukskaya, rose on impassability (road only was under construction) on a mountain. At signing the certificate of completion of works one of the participants has joked: "What you, astrophysicist, have trained for a new profession in astrometry"? "And I, by the way, professor of Astronomy also is obliged to have a wide outlook and skills of work in various areas of a science about the stellar sky", – has answered Vladimir Platonovich. And many witness validity of these words, whether the business of astronomical instrument making (creation "firm Zeissevich" on manufacturing telescopes), organization of a fireball network, radar-tracking observations of meteors, problems connected with AES, asteroids or wave mode at moorings of seaport in Illichevsk town near Odessa concerned.

By the way, on investigations of asteroids. The first work of Vladimir Platonovich on this subject has appeared in 1930 and was devoted to research variation of brightness asteroid Eros. Further, on an extent almost 50-y years V.P.Tsessevich studies of physics of small planets was published about ten scientific researches and this subjects was handed over his post-graduate student N.I.Koshkin, which subsequently has protected the candidate dissertation on a theme "Pho-

tometric method of definition of orientation of an axis of rotation and others kinematical and optical characteristics of asteroids with the large amplitudes of change of brightness". In this work were concentrated and the ideas V.P.Tsessevich on application of photometric observations of asteroids for their all-round research are advanced. It may confirm that the works of V.P.Tsessevich on early researches of photometric features of Eros and definition of the period of its rotation and direction of an axis of rotation became that basis, which has helped to apply these methods to definition of the same parameters of the first artificial Earth satellites advanced subsequently by V.M.Grigorevsky.

However, first of all V.P.Tsessevich was all the same astrophysicist- "peremenschik", that is, researcher of variable stars. Having begun observations somewhere in 1922, he remained faithful to this matter all life. Into an orbit of his interests all types of variable stars got practically. But, being "by the observer at a telescope", by virtue of the temperament he preferred that of them, where the change of brightness could be fixed directly by eye within night. This condition is answered by stars such as RR Lyrae-type, and also eclipsing variables. In understanding of a nature of such stars, the contribution V.P.Tsessevich is most significant. Per 30 years of the last century at active participation of the Professor in USSR the service of "antalgols" was adjusted, as then frequently named stars such as RR Lyrae variables. The tracking the periods of these stars and light curves was carried out. This service was renewed already at the international level under aegis of the International Astronomical Union per the sixtieth years. By the coordinator of the program was acted the Odessa observatory. The results of researches were published as the appendix to "Rochnik Astronomichny" of Krakow observatory (Poland). Results of the extensive researches of these stars V.P.Tsessevich has summed up in the monograph "Stars of RR Lyrae type", and also in the multivolume collective monograph "Non-stationary stars and methods of their research", where he represented himself as the editor and author of a lot of the chapters. The especially important results are received by him in the description and interpretation of effect Blazhko from RR Lyrae variables.

In the field of study eclipsing variables V.P.Tsessevich was indisputable authority. He is the author of the several monographs concerning a nature of these stars and definition of their orbits, co-author known fundamental three-volume monograph "Variable stars". The tables, made by him for the resolve of light curve of eclipsing variables some generations of the astronomers used. They find application and now. As recognition of merits V.P.Tsessevich his election a Chairman of Commission 42 on eclipsing variables of the International Astronomical Union was.

Essential contribution of V.P.Tsessevich in study of

other types of variable stars: Cepheid variables, RV Tauri stars, Mira Ceti stars, some unique objects. For the Professors the aspiration was characteristic to tie up among themselves different directions of astronomical researches. So, classical astrometric works he tried to sate with the astrophysical contents. Under his management in Odessa were executed meridian observations of the catalogues of positions and proper motions of red-giant stars (B.Novopashenny, M.Volyanska, I.Suprunets), Cepheid variables (E.Ludchenko), eclipsing binaries (M.Volyanska).

V.P.Tsessevich accumulated and in the majority processed huge numbers of visual observations of variable stars and estimations of brightness on photos of the stellar sky. As the observer, he amazed all virtuosity of process. He knew and remembered by decades the positions in the sky of tens, if not hundreds, variable stars and that allowed him to build optimum transition from one star to another during observations. He together with M.S.Kazanymas issued the atlases of search cards of vicinities 4512 variable stars. Process of observations Professor usually finished "by walk on the sky", inducing a telescope on remarkable objects: ring nebula in Lyra, globular cluster in Hercules, nebula in Orion, nebula in Andromeda, galactic cluster in Perseus, many-coloured double and multiple stars. Thus he received the large pleasure, if someone was near and shared with him delight from seen.

At V.P.Tsessevich there were many pupils. Some of them from him have apprehended a virus of construction and organization of new astronomical establishments. We already mentioned S.V.Rublev. The Director of Pulkovo observatory became V.K.Abalakin. Reconstructed astronomy in Moldova and built there observatory V.M.Grigorevsky. The schoolboys of V.P. have organized observant stations of Odessa observatory on peak Terskol in Caucasus; on a mountain Dushak-Erekdag in Turkmenistan, on pass Bezimenny in Armenia, went for observation and creation of astrostation in Mondy by border with Mongolia, on Pamir (height 4000 ). The stations were equipped by tools and devices created in Odessa astronomical observatory. Under the initiative of the Professor were made 40- telescopes for V.I.Lenin's school in Ulyanovsk, for All-Union pioneer camp "Orlenok" near Novorossiysk, for the Bolivian station of Astronomical Council USSR, for Sheged University in Hungary. By the way, last telescope became a basis for creation astronomical observatory of Sheged University fruitfully working and presently. The telescopes for many others observatory of Union were made. Almost in everyone observatory in territory former USSR will be the pupils of the Professor.

V.P.Tsessevich easily entered the confidential relations with the representatives of the different peoples, with deep respect concerned to their culture and language. Among his pupils and post-graduate stu-

dents there were representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kirghizia, Tadzhikistan, Bulgaria and other countries. Many from them carried out the researches in Mayaky. Versatility of interests of V.P., his work, besides university, a head of a chair of High mathematics in different time in present Academy of a Cold, Marine Academy, Marine University promoted to that the Professor had very many pupils and among not of the astronomers. Many from them under his management became the candidates and doctors of sciences and successfully work in high schools, scientific institutions, at factories of Odessa both other cities and countries of the world.

The cooperation with High Marine School was especially fruitful, as then the Marine academy referred to as. On the basis of astrometry section of Odessa observatory on meridian circle, passage, universal tools carried out researches the post-graduate students and teachers of chairs of nautical astronomy, navigation, automation of navigation. At the same time employees of observatory had an opportunity to make use of the computer park of a school. On the basis of carried out in observatory observations by the employees of a school are defended of more ten candidate dissertations and one doctor's, tens scientific articles, star catalogues are published. And all V.P.Tsessevich has prepared about 40 candidates of sciences, and his many pupils have defended the doctor's dissertations. Remarkable feature of V.P.Tsessevich was his scientific generosity. Distributing scientific ideas, giving out results of the observations, he never applied for the co-authorship, and quite often he should be persuaded, that he should have put the signature under article, where the joint development, and frequently and primary results, received by him were used.

Some more words about the attitude of Vladimir Platonovich to the employees. In heavy times with habitation (these times in our country unfortunately do not stop) V.P.Tsessevich used all opportunities, available at his disposal, to facilitate a situation of the people. In observatory and observation stations long time many employees, frequently together with families lived. The professor had to be engaged and pull the strings for reception of normal habitation for the employees. Eventually, many from living in observatory collaborators have found habitation in city, and he has helped some to find and summer residence in prestigious areas of city.

V.P.Tsessevich, as far as we know, was not specifically engaged in sports, was not a heated fan, but understood well the importance of sports, especially for youth. In the observatory in the city and in Mayaky there were volleyball fields (Professor himself sometimes stood in a team), there was a table for table tennis in Mayaky, billiard-table, a boat for rowing on river Dnestr, in the observatory in the city – cruising yacht, the competitions among the employees were

carried out. The cultural initiatives of any sort were also supported. For cultural needs in Mayaky the tape recorder, TV set (rare in 1950s -1960s) were acquired, there were newspaper subscriptions, the quite good library of literature collected. Village children resorted ran to watch television programs – V.P.Tsessevich welcomed that very much. In general, he supposed, that the Observatory should become the center of culture in the village. Under his initiative in Mayaky the cycle of lectures on natural and humanitarian subjects was read for the villagers. The lecturers from the University were invited and the scientists from the Observatory took part also.

In general, the contribution of V.P.Tsessevich in the popularization of scientific knowledge deserves a special conversation (mention). The perfect lecturer, he was one of the founders of the Odessa regional organization of the society "Znanie" ("Knowledge"), the permanent Chairman of the Odessa branch of the All-Union Astronomy and Geodetic Society and the member of the Central Council of that. Due to persisting efforts of the Professor the Regional Planetarium was open in Odessa in 1963 and the first lecture "A Walk along the Stellar Sky" was read by V.P.Tsessevich. When any outstanding scientists came to Odessa, the Professor always tried, sometimes contrary to the personal predilections that they would talk in front of the astronomers, scientific public, city people. So, though his relation with the member – correspondent of the Academy of the Sciences of the USSR I.S.Shklovsky cannot be named cloudless, when this brilliant scientist came to Odessa together with R.S.Sagdeev and N.S.Kardashev, the meeting with them was held and in the Central lecture-hall of the society "Znanie", and in the Observatory. And when well-known American astrophysicist L.Goldberg was in Odessa, the meetings with him were organized both in the Observatory, and at the University, and in the Central lecture-hall, and part of the fee for the lecture V.P.Tsessevich paid from his personal savings. And how many of these personal savings he spent on different needs of the Observatory! It cannot be counted, but it is safe to tell, that it was a lot.

Despite his wide scientific interests and big achievement in many areas of astronomy, in last years of his life in conversations with the colleagues V.P.Tsessevich expressed sometimes some dissatisfaction with his activity. Probably, it was related to the restriction of mobility because of illness – that, certainly, had an effect on his moods, the man, who had got used to a very active lifestyle. With all his consuming interest to astronomy he also had a good knowledge of literature (especially, he loved Rabelais, Mark Twain), music, played on a piano, and in 1950 years, it happened, sang in the company of the employees. The colleagues certify, that he had quite good dramatic tenor, he loved romances, especially, "Ya vstretil vas" ("I met you").

At the end of his life way it always seemed to him, that something main in his life he had not yet made. It was necessary to dissuade him, to remind of the scientific merits, that now it is necessary to give more attention to health. But as soon as improvement came, the sad thoughts left the Professor, and he again developed energetic activity, so that many young people could envy his energy. Such active, cheerful he remained in the memory of people, who knew him. V.P.Tsessevich died on October 28, 1983 and is buried on the Second Christian cemetery of Odessa.

In the scientific baggage that V.P.Tsessevich left to us there is about 400 thousand estimations of the brightness of about 500 variable stars of different types; the list of his publications totals more than 730 scientific articles, notes and other publications, among which 22 monographs. And taking into account his editorial work, introductions, interviews and comments, this figure increases considerably. More than 80 publications are dedicated to V.P.Tsessevich and his biography.

The merits of V.P.Tsessevich were marked by the high governmental awards: by an order of Lenin, order of the Red Banner of Labor, many medals, and difficult to count number of honorable and gratitude letters from the governments of different republics of the USSR. In memory of the Professor on the main building of the Odessa Astronomical Observatory, where he lived and worked about 40 years, on October 11, 1990 there was established a memorial board with a bas-relief, and during the next years 6 scientific conferences dedicated to him were carried out. The memory about V.P.Tsessevich remained in centuries – in the depths of space there goes along its orbit the asteroid 2498 with a name "Tsessevich".