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**Włodzimierz Zonn (1905-1975). Astronom i utalentowany publicysta naukowy**

**Włodzimierz Zonn (1905-1975). Astronomer and talented science writer**

SUMMARY

The work of Włodzimierz Zonn involving astronomical research and popularization, which occupies a key place in the history of the field in Poland, as well as his contribution to Polish scientific life, fully warrant a presentation of the life and work of this great scientist, with a special focus on his manifold activities relating to astronomy.

The article is based on the memoirs, published in the journal "Postępy Astronomii", by Professor Wilhelmina Iwanowska, relating to the Wilno period (1925-1938), and by Professor Stefan Piotrowski (1938-1975), relating to the Warsaw period of Zonn's life and activity, as well as recordings of conversations which PhD Stanisław Wrona had with Professor Zonn's disciples, now Professors: Konrad Rudnicki, Józef Smak and Andrzej M. Sołtan, as well as with the librarian Iwona Korzeniowska. The author, who was a friend of Prof. Zonn and collaborated with him in the field of popularizing astronomy, has added some unknown details that help to characterize the unique personality of the scientist.

The first area in which Włodzimierz Zonn was active had to do with photographic photometry of variable stars. His further work dealt with astronomic statistics; he pointed out the fact that dark matter is not distributed uniformly in the Galaxy, and he discovered the instability of double galaxies.

Since 1950, Professor Zonn had been Head of the Astronomical Observatory of the Warsaw University. He was co-founder of the Division of Astronomy of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and later became head of the Astrophysics Laboratory II within the division. For ten years, Professor Zonn headed the Astronomy Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He was chosen a total of eight times as President of the Polish Astronomical Society.

Professor Zonn was the author of several academic textbooks, over twenty popular scientific books and brochures, as well as over a hundred articles from the borderline area of science popularization and science journalism.

Professor Zonn was a highly esteemed lecturer and unrivalled popularizer of science. He could boast of broad intellectual horizons and an enormous sense of humour.

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