



RNDr. Ludmila PAJDUŠÁKOVÁ, CSc. (1916-1979)

An outstanding Slovak women-scientist, the first Slovak woman astronomer, a specialist in solar astronomy recognised as the discoverer of five comets, who devoted her life to cultivating Astronomy in Slovakia. In the years 1958-1979 she became the third director of the Skalnaté Pleso Observatory and Astronomical institute in Tatranská Lomnica, in one of the highest Slovakian mountain ranges High Tatras. As early as on September 19, 1943 the first observations focused on the Sun were carried out there. The observatory at Skalnaté Pleso became famous for its discoveries of new comets, 18 in total, 6 of which being discovered by Ludmila Pajdušáková by means of a binocular giant trieders Somet-Binar. In co-operation with the German astronomers Rotbart and Weber she had discover the comet C/1946 K1 in 1945. Other activities of her scientific research included systematic observations of meteors (therein was discovered a meteor shower of the Umids in 1945) and observations of the Sun. A small planet (3636) Pajdušáková = 1982 UJ2, discovered 1982 October 17 by A. Mrkos, was named in memory of Ludmila Pajdušáková by the decision of the International Astronomical union.