



# **Patrimony and Science. A Historical Timeline of the Astronomical Institute of the Romanian Academy**



*Sorin Marin  
Astronomical Institute of the Romanian Academy*

# Astronomy. A historical timeline on the Filaret Hill in Bucharest

**aprox. 1853**

The appearance of Bosianu property on the Filaret Hill in Bucharest.

**1884**

The Meteorological Institute of Romania moved to the Bosianu domain

**1908**

The Astronomical and Meteorological Observatory

**1920**

The Astronomical Observatory was a research structure of Bucharest University

**1990**

Astronomical Institute of the Romanian Academy has three observatories in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca and Timișoara

**1821**

**MODERN AGE**

**1918**

**CONTEMPORAN AGE**

**1893**

The Small Meridian Hall was built by the Meteorological Institute of Romania. It was the first permanent astronomical building in the Old Kingdom (pre-1918 Romania)

**1975**

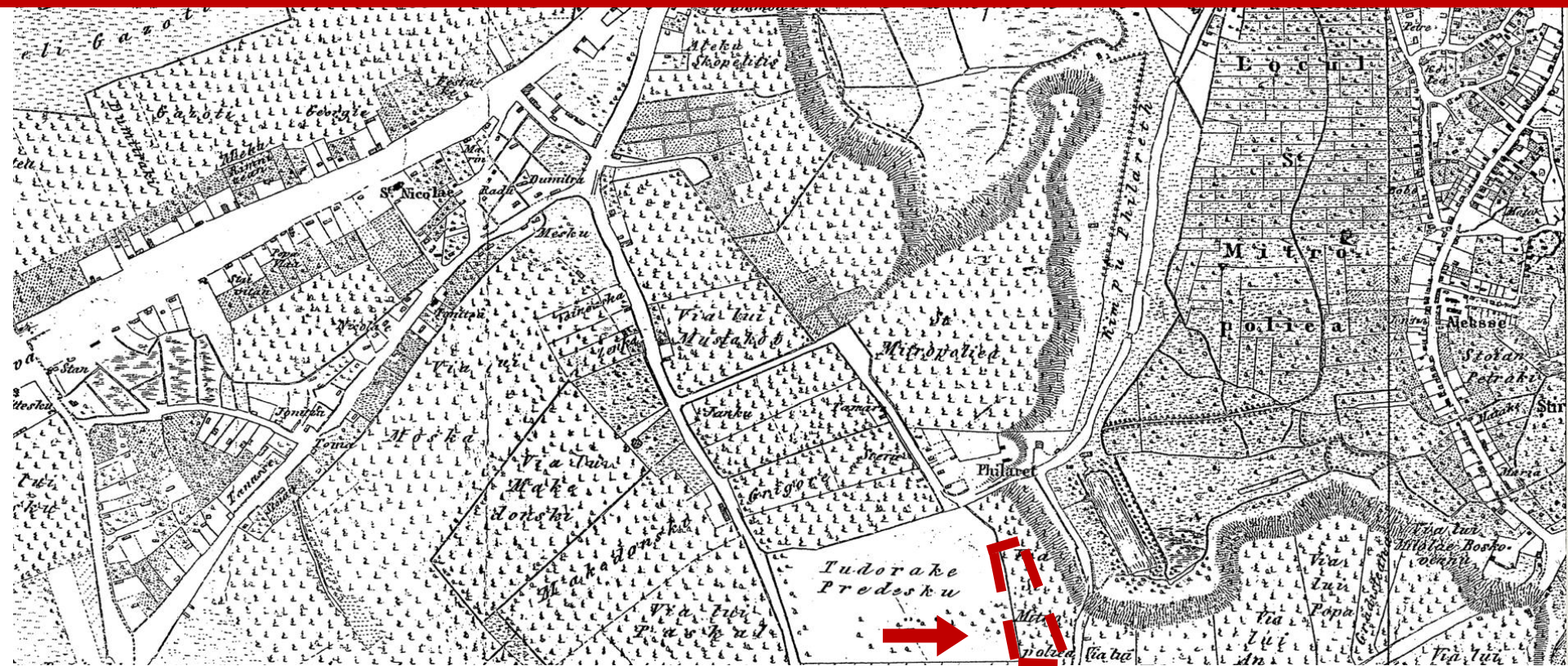
The Astronomical Observatory became a division of the Astronomy and Space Sciences Center, Central Physics Institute

**1951**

Bucharest Astronomical Observatory entered under the authority of the Romanian Academy



## A window to the XIX<sup>th</sup> Century: the Borroczyn Plan



The Borroczyn Plan (1852), close-up detail

Dashed line indicates approximately the area where Constantin Bosianu bought a property and built his house, a few years after the plan was made.

## The founding of Bosianu property on the Filaret Hill in the 1850's



**Constantin Bosianu,**  
the greatest law expert  
of the XIX<sup>th</sup> C. in Romania



**Bosianu House**



**Alexandru Ioan Cuza,**  
the first monarch  
of Romania

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



### Bosianu House

A building where history was made as it was directly involved in the 1859 Union of Wallachia and Moldova which created the modern Romania.



Bosianu House - The Council Room

*„Unity is the only political state that can ensure our future and give our country the modernization it thrived for so much time”.*

**Alexandru Ioan Cuza**,  
the first monarch of  
modern Romania

*„And, still, our Romania will come into existence as blind is whoever doesn't see it coming.”*

The last words of the  
1848 Romanian  
Revolution leader  
**Nicolae Bălcescu**  
(1849, Palermo, Italy).

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



**Small Meridian Hall (1893)** where the **Geneva Refractory Telescope (1893)** was installed and operated. It is the first permanent building of the Old Kingdom of Romania constructed for astronomical research.

# Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



**Bardou Refractory Telescope  
(1893)**

## **Sun Building (1893)**

A scientific and administrative construction inherited from the initial Meteorological Institute of Romania led by Ștefan Hepites.



## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory in the 1920's



The **Main Building** (left) and the **Seismological Building** (right) of Bucharest Astronomical Observatory at the beginning of the interwar period (1925).

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



**Main Building (1912)** is the flagship of AIRA's constructions in Bucharest. It entered in its second century in the service of our nation, for scientific, administrative and educational purposes.

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



Team of scientists and workers during the installation of the **Gautier-Prin telescope** in the Meridian Hall (1926).

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



Inside the Main Building of Bucharest Astronomical Observatory are two scientific instruments which are classed as a treasury of the Romanian nation: the Gautier-Prin Telescope (1926, Meridian Hall) and the Prin-Merz Telescope (1912, Equatorial Dome).

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



**AFU-75 photographic camera** was installed at Bucharest Astronomical Observatory in 1970 and was used for scientific monitoring and studies on the artificial satellites of the Earth.  
Right photo: Dr. Gheorghe Vass

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



**Le Roy** (photo left) and **Riefler** (photo right) **Fundamental Pendulums**  
(1930, 1952)

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



**Sun Dome (1958)** is a scientific facility where the activity of the Sun is monitored through a specific set of instruments and protocols. Inside, three **Carl Zeiss Jena solar refractors (1957-1958)** on an equatorial mount monitor daily, live from Bucharest, the activity of the Sun.

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



**Telescope Building (1962)** hosts one of the largest reflectory telescopes in Romania, the Cassegrain Telescope 500/7500 mm (1964).

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



**Planetarium Hall (1999)** is an educational facility to open the gates of science and of the sky.

## Bucharest Astronomical Observatory. Patrimonial values



**Planetarium Hall (1999)** is an educational facility to open the gates of science and of the sky.

Thank you.

