

CULTURAL METEORS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY 2009

by Valentin Grigore and Andrei Dorian Gheorghe

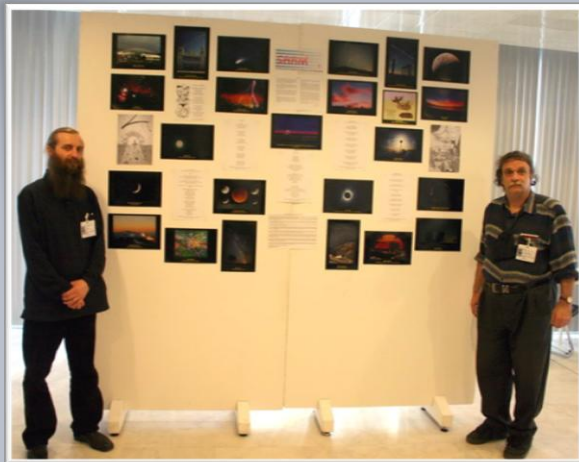
We are two sky lovers and the meteors are our favourite heavenly bodies.

One of us is the Founder-President of the Romanian Society for Meteors and Astronomy (SARM), and the other is the cultural counsellor of the same organization.

This is the position from which we started in January 2009 to the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, in order to participate at the greatest-ever cultural-astronomical event, composed of the Opening Ceremony of the International Year of Astronomy and the International Astronomical Union Symposium 260 “The Role of Astronomy in Society and Culture”.



Among many presentations, posters and artworks, we came there with our own astro-photo-art-poetry exhibition, poster, lecture and astropoetry show, in which the meteors were important components. Practically, we had the biggest density of meteors at UNESCO.



Afterwards we made the most complex web photo-chronicle of that event, entitled SARM at UNESCO-IAU-IYA under the Sign of Galileo.



We continued the International Year of Astronomy 2009, organized by the International Astronomical Union and UNESCO, with many activities connected to its projects, especially to the most representative, along with our traditional events, the results being quite remarkable. Thus, for the Targoviste festival of astronomy in 2-4 April 2009, SARM received Highly Commended Award for the Largest single registered 100 Hours of Astronomy event, in a project with over 2300 events in 100 countries.



In August 2010, SARM organized the 17th edition of its Perseid event in the Fagaras Mountains.



Some of the meteor photographs being exhibited in the SARM poster at the International Meteor Conference 2010 in Poreč (Croatia).



For another Targoviste festival of Astronomy (including as a special activity an Orionid observational night) in 22-24 October 2009, SARM was declared Winner for the Outstanding Galilean Nights Event Award, in a competition with over 1600 projects in 88 countries. As that festival also included, along with other public activities, a reading of international galilean poetry, we can say that astropoetry was a significant part of this exceptional world award.





Two SARM members became also Winners among the 10 Winners of the IYA Earth and Sky astrophotography contest.



"Milky Way above Romania" by Cristina Tinta Vass (www.skyphotographers.com). 2nd winner in Against the Lights category, International Earth & Sky Photo Contest. The splendid Milky Way above the light dome of a city shows the contrast between natural look of the sky and artificially light dominated cities.



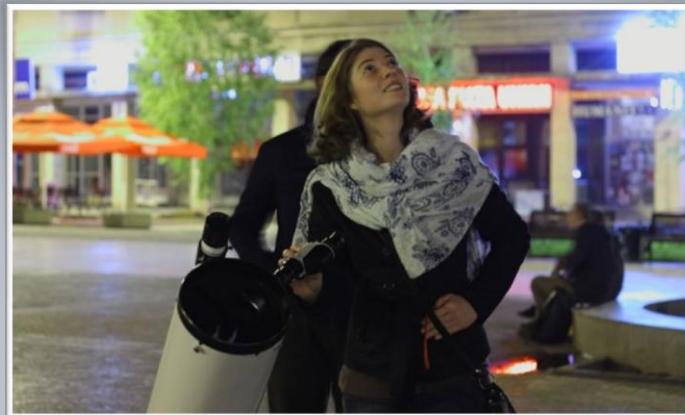
"Stargazers" by Valentin Grigore (vall.grigore@gmail.com) from Romania. 3rd winner in Beauties of Night Sky category, International Earth & Sky Photo Contest. The photo is taken during a public observing night above a hill overlooking Targoviste, a city in Romania. Moon and Venus are coupled in the evening sky.

And not in the least, SARM developed its own international superproject, Astropoetry to the International Year of Astronomy, an original chronicle of words and images, nominated for the IYA 2009 Mani Bhaumik Prize for Excellence in Astronomy Education and Public Outreach, and appreciated as “the largest-ever astronomical poetry tribute” in the official web site of the International Year of Astronomy.



As a continuation of this legacy, in April 2010 SARM received the right to organize an official program of the new-created Global Astronomy Month, entitled Astropoetry to the Global Astronomy Month 2010, one of its components being a Lyrid Watch.





And now, here we are again at an International Meteor Conference,
ready for a new Astropoetry Show.