

## STARRY CITIES and ASTROLIES – Books to communicate with the public

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### Abstract

Extragalactic worlds have been presented as star cities in a book of original design – *STARRY CITIES – galaxies and time travel*, the first book about galaxies written in Serbian for the general public. This book isn’t written just for those interested in science, but for all kind of artists, philosophers and thinkers. A second book, *ASTROLIES* deals with common confusions concerning astronomy and astrology. These two books don’t only offer interesting illustrations, data from the latest astronomical observations and currently accepted cosmological theories – they induce, by provoking curiosity in a specific and witty way, a sense of adventure and a challenge to explore. The publisher of both books is the oldest and the biggest publisher of text-books in Serbia, *Zavod za udzbenike i nastavna sredstva*<sup>2</sup>, currently celebrating 50 years in publishing (1957-2007). They already publish a dozen books in popular astronomy, but a special astronomical series for the general public was introduced in 2004. *STARRY CITIES* and *ASTROLIES* are part of the ongoing multidisciplinary project *Astronomy. Inspiration*. Art that started at the end of 2004 at the Public Observatory in Belgrade. This project intends to inspire (or perhaps even “infect”) artists with cosmic themes and the fantastic scenery of the Universe.

### *STARRY CITIES – galaxies and time travel*

This book is a story about galaxies by Stanic (2004), and includes not only the first ideas that appeared about “island universes”, the evolution of some of the ideas, the story of the first galaxy to be discovered and the Hubble Deep Field galaxies, but, at the beginning of each chapter, also contains poems inspired by astronomical phenomena, as a wonderful bridge between the human mind and the vastness of space. On the first page there are verses by Edgar Allan Poe: *Here I opened wide the door – Darkness there and nothing more.*

The Universe as a whole and its evolution, as well as the possibility of Multiverses, has been described in Chapter Seven. Just: *Imagine you sink upwards, to the vast space abyss, among the crystals of light... – Antic (1986).*

The back cover states: *Starry Cities are the sparkling soul of the Universe and contain all the visible matter that has been ever created. Every single page takes you on a journey through the*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.adrb.org>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.zavod.co.yu>

*mutually inspired worlds of art and science, imagination and reality. You shouldn't be just a reader, even a peaceful, intelligent and enthusiastic one, but a real "star detective" investigating a case of the known and the unknown and share the results with someone else. Does the sky ever end? Who knows? But don't miss a chance to travel with this book through the dark night to the beginning (and the end) of space-time.*

In order to inspire the youngest generation of readers to get involved in science, Chapter Eight introduces 14 real, young and smiling "star detectives" who live and do their research in Serbia at the Astronomical Observatory, Faculty of Mathematics, Petnica Science Center and Public Observatory and Planetarium (Belgrade).

The book's illustrations and artwork are the work of Aleksandra Jovanic (master of art and mathematician, University of Art, Belgrade), Marica Radojcic (professor of Programming and Mathematics at Faculty of Mathematics and professor of Digital Art at University of Art, Belgrade), Petar Kubicela (academic painter, telescope maker and high school professor of Drawing and Mathematics, Novi Sad) and Jose Francisco Salgado (Astronomer, Adler Planetarium, Chicago).

The last chapter shows eight amazing artistic visions of "star detective: star cities" by three of the most important artists who have given, together with the book designer Deniza Letic (master of art), an incredible energy and unique design to this book: Aleksandra Jovanic, Marica Radojcic and Jose Francisco Salgado.

## **ASTROLIES**

Unfortunately, even at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the general public still confuses the terminology of astrology and astronomy, as well as methods of testing within these disciplines. Confusions between astronomy and astrology have never been studied in enough detail from the historical, scientific and psychological point of view at the same time, Stanic and Tadic (2005). In an era that has seen the very aggressive expansion of horoscopes and other kinds of superstition and quasi science in the media, the authors feel an obligation to explain the difference between a rational and irrational conception of the world.

In the first chapter there is a table that directly compares the astronomical and astrological interpretations of the five planets, the Sun and the Moon. An introduction to the celestial sphere, constellations and the Zodiac are given too. Astrology appeared in the mythological epoch of human history when no scientific proof was necessary. But with the beginning of the modern era in astronomy and from the work of such scientists as Copernicus, Brahe, Kepler and Galileo Galilei, science has given many essential explanations about the world we live in that are so convincing that nobody should believe in horoscopes today.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.zavod.co.yu>

Important contributions to this book have been made by eminent professional astronomers who have given their own opinions about astrology: Milan M. Cirkovic (Cosmologist at the Astronomical Observatory Belgrade), Aleksandar Kubicela (Astrophysicist at the Astronomical Observatory Belgrade), Miodrag Dacic (Astronomer at the Astronomical Observatory Belgrade) and Jose Francisco Salgado (Astronomer at the Adler Planetarium, Chicago). The cover page artwork was created by Jose Francisco Salgado & Natasa Stanic.

Clear conclusions and suggestions are given at the end of the book: common people need much more news from the latest astronomical events and astonishing cosmic phenomena in the media instead of such “mental drugs” as astrology and numerology. Furthermore, the general public as a whole need to experience modern planetarium technology and see how it can present, in an extraordinary and unforgettable way, all the achievements of telescopes (on the Earth and in orbit), space probes and scientific theories in so called “3D cinema”.

#### References

- Stanic N. (2004), *Starry Cities – galaxies and time travel*. Zavod za udzbenike i nastavna sredstva, Belgrade, Serbia
- Stanic N., Tadic M. (2005), *Astrolies*. Zavod za udzbenike i nastavna sredstva, Belgrade, Serbia



Figure 1 – Cover page of book “Starry cities”, (by Natasa Stanic) published by Zavod za udzbenike i nastavna sredstva, 2004, Belgrade.



Figure 2 – Cover page of book “Astrolies”, (by Natasa Stanic & Milutin Tadic) published by Zavod za udzbenike i nastavna sredstva, 2005, Belgrade.

Dome Communicating Astronomy with the Public 2007 Each telescope is housed in an automatic motorised dome that with a window opening from 0° to 90°. The domes are manufactured by Baader Planetarium 2 . Camera Each telescope is equipped with a 1024x1024 24-1/4m Finger Lakes CCD camera (soon to be updated to a 4000x700 9-1/4m CCD). This is a cooled back-thinned array with high quantum efficiency (up to 80%) and a shutter capable of 0.05 second exposures. There is also a filter wheel for each telescope with the typical UBVR Johnson photometry set, nebula filters (OIII, H $\beta$  and H $\alpha$ ) and red, green and ...

STARRY CITIES and ASTROLIES - Books. Page 531 and 532: STARRY CITIES and ASTROLIES - Books. Page 533 and 534 A city survey with a difference. There are many websites on the Internet which provide lists of the world's best cities to visit, live or work in. These lists usually grade the cities in order, from "best" to "worst", and are based on facts and figures provided by local or national organisations. The City Brands Index (CBI) also provides a list of best and worst cities. However, unlike other surveys, it is based on the idea that cities are similar to products in shops. It asks ordinary people in other countries to grade cities in the same way that they would grade a product, like a soft drink or a car.

parties and other fun events. And if you get fed up with the city, you can get a bus into the countryside, where there are lots of fields. The hills. Many methods of online communication allow you to communicate in real time - that is, instantly. To talk to another person in a different part of the world and see each other on television screens. video conference. The list of your friends or contacts, used in programs such as Windows Live Messenger and ICQ: a buddy list. VoIP stands for Voice Over Internet Protocol. An unofficial set of rules for how you should behave when communicating online. netiquette. A chat room is a public online space where you can meet people and discuss topics of mutual interest. IOW. @inproceedings{Stanic2008STARRYCA, title={STARRY CITIES and ASTROLIES - Books to communicate with the public}, author={N. Stanic and R. Bojkovic}, year={2008} }. N. Stanic, R. Bojkovic. Published 2008. Political Science. Extragalactic worlds have been presented as star cities in a book of original design "STARRY CITIES" galaxies and time travel, the first book about galaxies written in Serbian for the general public. A second book, ASTROLIES deals with common confusions concerning astronomy and astrology. These two books don't only offer interesting illustrations, data from the latest astronomy.org. Save to Library. Create Alert. Cite.

Consumers, TV stars, industry professionals and scientists are often asked to share their opinion about the product which is advertised. Broadcasters don't want the public to switch the channel during commercials, that's why they are becoming interesting and entertaining. However, no matter how tempting they are, ads and commercials will hardly win my confidence and make me buy some product. Quite a lot of people find advertising rather obtrusive and annoying. At the same time it is very difficult to communicate with people who are very direct and say exactly what they think. Sometimes telling the truth may hurt other people's feelings. For example, your friend has had her hair done and asks what you think of her hair-do. To your mind, she looks terrible.