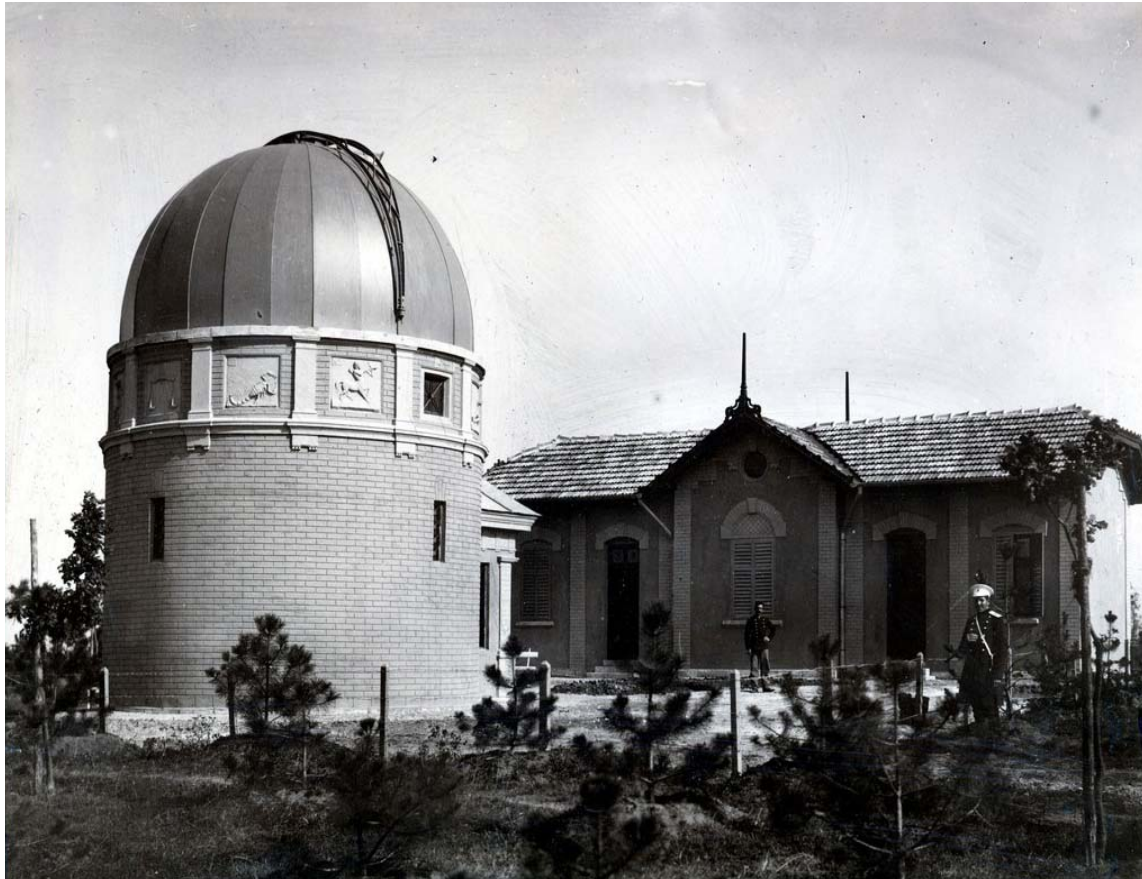




**Bulgarian Astronomical Society,
founded on 10.06.2000**

Short historical background



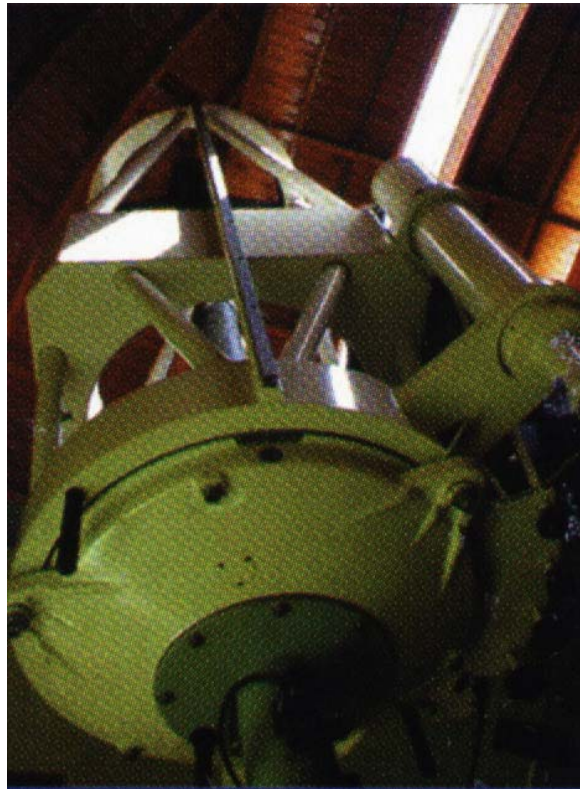
- 1892 - first Bulgarian astronomical observatory
- 1904 - Ciril Popov - first scientific publication in astronomy
- 1952 - Nikola Bonev - first ideas and steps for creating a National Astronomical Observatory

March 1981 - official opening of The National Astronomical Observatory at Rozhen

2-m Ritchey-Chretien
Coude telescope



60-cm Cassagrain
telescope



50/70/172 cm Schmidt
telescope



Science made at Rozhen (IA - BAS)

- Sun
- Solar System
- Stellar atmospheres and shells
- Nonstationary stars
- Stellar clusters
- Chemically peculiar stars
- Galaxies

Educational centers for Astronomy

- Sofia University
- Shumen University

Public observatories

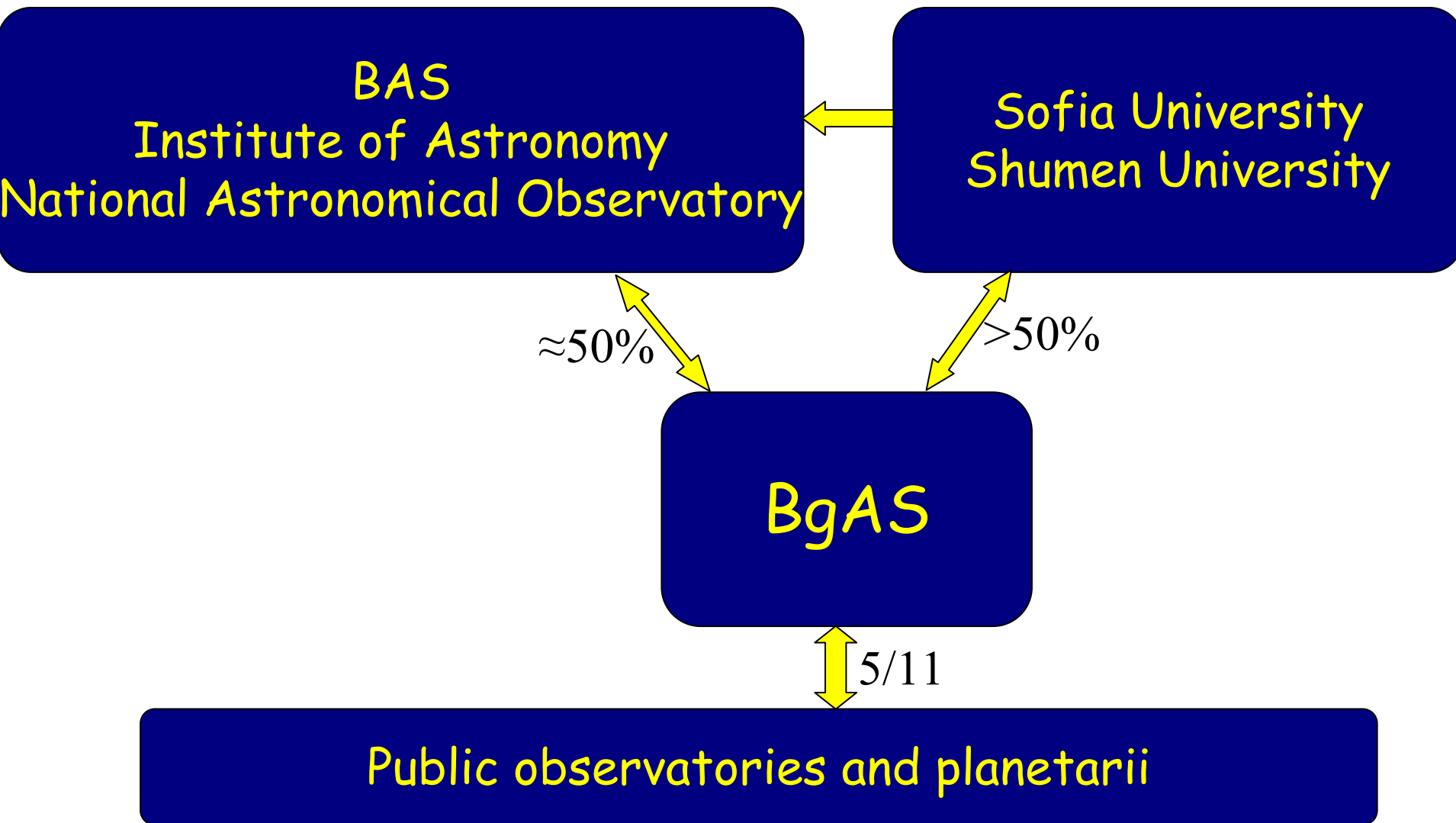
- In 11 cities spread over the country
- Some of them have a planetarium
- Different funding sources

The National Astronomical Observatory at Rozhen - center for research and education



Photography by Nadezhda Radeva

2000 - establishment of the Bulgarian Astronomical Society (BgAS)



Extracted from the constitution

- BgAS is a voluntary non-governmental organization.
- It unites professional and nonprofessional astronomers.
- It is opened for all friends of astronomy.

Main objectives of BgAS

- To promote the progress of astronomy.
- To enhance the social prestige of astronomy .
- To create links between professional and amateur astronomers.

How to achieve these objectives?

- ❑ By supporting the research and educational work of its members.
- ❑ By popularizing the attainments of astronomy.
- ❑ By participating the formation of national politics and strategy concerning astronomy.
- ❑ By maintaining close relations with international astronomical organizations.

a

v

Census of BgAS

Professional astronomers:

17 from Institute of Astronomy

10 from universities

6 from public observatories

26 scholars and students

4 amateur astronomers

Collective members - 3

Total: 63 individual members

3 collective members

Activities of the BgAS

Organisation of meetings:

- national scientific conferences in Astronomy
- meetings of the governing body of the BgAS

Publications: supports the publication of Proceedings of the national conferences (jointly with the IA)

Public outreach - website, e-mail news

Grants - not yet

Job market - not yet

Needs and wishes for the future

- Participation in educational projects (jointly with IA and Universities).
- Attract more members: from public observatories, institutes, universities, diaspora, ...
- Diversification of the tools for public outreach.
- Exchange of experience with similar societies
 - in Bulgaria
 - in the region (South-Eastern Europe)
 - in Europe
 - in the other world