

# The small telescopes still useful for astrometry

Magda G. Stavinschi

Astronomical Institute, Romanian Academy of Sciences,  
Cutitul de Argint 5, RO-040557 Bucharest, Romania  
email: magda@aira.astro.ro

**Abstract.** We make a case for the usefulness of small telescopes astrometry.

**Keywords.** astrometry, solar system, telescopes

---

The IAU XXIV General Assembly approved the foundation of a special working-group on the *Future development of the ground-based astrometry*, as a Working Group of IAU Division I. It worked for six years.

The contribution of the small telescopes raises great questions, especially when we think of astrometry which is made today by means of the space missions or of the great telescopes. Nevertheless, there are still a series of programs for which they should continue to work, not in competition but in order to complete or prepare their activity.

There are some of its objectives still valid for the next few years:

- astrometric observations of some bodies of the solar system bodies;
- monitoring selected asteroids approaching the Earth;
- observations of artificial objects and space events and other natural phenomena generating hazards in the vicinity of the Earth;
- improving double star orbits;
- astrometric observations of the areas around extragalactic radiosources to extend Hipparcos system to the faint stars;
- rediscovering of recently discovered asteroids with the help of digital plate archive;
- the program 'Before *Gaia*'
- the observation of the mutual phenomena of Uranus' satellites within the campaign PHEURA 07.

Last but not least, there are the educational efforts for the training of a new generation of astrometrists, now before the launching of new space specialized missions and the processing of a huge amount of data collected so far.