

EPITOME FUNDAMENTORUM ASTRONOMIAE
(Monographs on Star Catalogues)

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Summary: Catalogues, containing data on positions, proper motions, parallaxes and other characteristics of stars, have been and continue to be the foundations of astronomy. Naturally they are not the only ones, but certainly they are the oldest foundations.

For many years we were occupied with problems of fundamental astrometry and therefore we completely felt the importance of star catalogues, and, at the same time, the lack of monographs on them in the astronomical literature. In the opinion of many authors, these monographs must contain full bibliography and presentation of such catalogues which, in some way or other, evoked decisive change in the fundamental astrometry. Accordingly we decided to compile such monographs. Our intention was to collect the data on star catalogues of different kind and to supply them with analysis of that very important documentary material. When choosing the title „Epitome Fundamentorum Astronomiae“ for the common name of these monographs, we had two goals in view: first, to emphasize the importance of star catalogues, and second, to pay homage to F. W. Bessel, one of the celebrities of astrometry, who used this very name for his first fundamental catalogue.

The first part of our series of monographs, entitled „Epitome Fundamentorum Astronomiae I“, contains bibliographical data and two papers on catalogues of star positions obtained with azimuthal instruments. The co-author of the bibliography is Dr. Gy. Szádeczky-Kardoss (Geodetical and Geophysical Laboratory of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Sopron). This first monograph will appear in Publications of the Department of Astronomy, Belgrade University, № 7.