

OBITUARY



SALVADOR FELIX GONZALEZ BEDOLLA
1947 – 1996

It is with great sadness that I must communicate the passing of our colleague Salvador Félix González Bedolla. The observational astronomers of the Observatorio Astronómico Nacional owe much to his pioneering effort at San Pedro Mártir, work that formed him as an astronomer, and helped him become one of the best photometric observers in México and, at the Instituto de Astronomía of the UNAM, the academic technician with the highest productivity of articles derived from observations at the OAN.

Salvador was an excellent student. He obtained the highest achievement award (Gabino Barreda) in high school, studied physics at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and also finished the credits for his Master's degree in Physics with only his thesis separating him from his degree, an act which was constantly put off until his death.

He began his career in Astronomy in 1973 under Dr. Eugenio Mendoza. Later he worked with Josef Warman in the observation of short period stars in the Observatorio 'José Arbol y Bonilla' in Zacatecas, México. I then began working continuously with him in this field of research which, thanks to his great work capacity, produced very good results.

He continued in these fields of research not only within the Institute of Astronomy, but also in other research facilities, especially two: With the variable group from the Observatory at Nice, France, beginning in 1985, specializing in the pulsation of early stars. His main interest was in the β Cep stars and in the possibility of relating these stars to the new types of variables (such as the OB stars, the '53 Per' variables, the 'ultrashort' period and the "slow" and Be variables) discovered near this zone. Hence, in view of this, his efforts were aimed at monitoring the stars that belong to these new groups in order to discover if they are really different from the classical β Cep stars. Moreover, beginning in 1984, Salvador began working with

a group of astronomers from the Instituto de Astronomía de Andalucía, Spain. His participation was active and indispensable in international campaigns which were carried out to study short period pulsators with very complex sets of frequencies using an analysis of light curves. Thanks to his observations, which were quite reliable, the pulsational and astrophysical characteristics of a great number of them have been resolved. Also, during these investigations, many new pulsators were discovered, especially Delta Scuti stars.

Salvador also dedicated many years to teaching. Beginning in 1972, he taught physics and chemistry at the Colegio de Ciencias y Humanidades of the UNAM where he also developed programs, evaluated candidates for teaching posts and published books about his specialities.

His loss, a product of the senseless violence of modern life in México City, is mourned by the Instituto de Astronomía, UNAM, since he always tried to develop his activities with a high degree of professionalism and with great enthusiasm.

Salvador, your colleagues and friends miss you and your memory will always remain with us.

José H. Peña