

## TRIBUTE TO NÜZHET GÖKDOĞAN



Solar physicist Nüzhet Gökdoğan receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from SOC Chair Robert Wing, while LOC Chair Zeki Aslan shows his approval. Prof. Gökdoğan was thanked for her many contributions to Turkish astronomy, including her role as Turkey's first National Representative to the IAU. The brief ceremony took place on May 27, 1996, during the symposium's Welcoming Reception in the gardens of the Antalya Archaeological Museum.

### Biographical Notes

Nüzhet Gökdoğan was born in Istanbul on August 14, 1910. After completing her secondary education she was granted a national scholarship to study Mathematics and Physics in France in 1928. In 1934, with a B.Sc. in Mathematics from the University of Lyon and after a period of work at Paris Observatory, she returned to Turkey to a faculty position in the Astronomy Department of Istanbul University as the first female member

of the University's Science Faculty and the only Turkish member of its Astronomy Department. There she prepared her dissertation with the title "Contribution aux recherches sur l'existence d'une matière obscure interstellaire homogène autour du soleil" under the supervision of Prof. E. Finley-Freundlich and obtained her Ph.D. degree in 1937.

During the years 1936-46 she held an appointment in Mathematics at Istanbul Technical University in addition to her work at Istanbul University. In 1948 she was promoted to the rank of Professor at Istanbul University. Soon thereafter she was elected by Faculty Council to the University Senate, and in 1954 she became Dean of the Faculty. Thus Prof. Gökdoğan had the honor of being the first lady senator and Dean in Turkey.

From 1958 to 1980 Prof. Gökdoğan directed the Astronomy Department, which expanded from 5 to 18 staff members, all trained by her. She supervised 11 Ph.D. dissertations and translated several textbooks from both English and French. She also developed collaborative research programs with the Observatories of Meudon and Nice in France, Basel in Switzerland, and Asiago and Padova in Italy.

Prof. Gökdoğan was the founder of the Turkish Astronomical Society and served as its President for 20 years. She was also the first Turkish national representative to the International Astronomical Union (which Turkey joined in 1961) and was a member of its Commission 12 on Radiation and Structure of the Solar Atmosphere. She was also one of the founders of the Turkish University Women's Association. She has organized several conferences.

Prof. Gökdoğan, who speaks French, English, German, and Greek fluently, was married to Prof. Mukbil Gökdoğan, who died in 1992. Their two children are both university professors: Gönül Gökdoğan is Professor of Music at Istanbul University, and Can Gökdoğan is Professor of Medicine in the Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty of Istanbul University.