



**Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,**

Libraries are rarely locations where scientific discoveries in natural sciences are made. When, however, extraordinary people meet in extraordinary times, even this is possible.

This is exemplified by this very case which we now have carved in stone for future generations to see. This short episode in scientific history will soon be described in detail by the following speakers.

As for me, I wish to stress how this festive event's significance points beyond the event itself. I wish to highlight the fact that the Serbian researcher interned because of the First World War was welcomed as a friend and colleague in the Academy's library, or, as he put it, 'this shrine of science, adjacent to the old Chain Bridge.' He was supported in every way by then director, mathematician Kálmán Szily.

Milutin Milanković spent four years in the reading room of the library. He worked on a mathematical model describing the climates of planets with changing axial tilt and orbital eccentricity. It was here that he established his theory about the connection between astronomical factors influencing the amount of solar energy that reaches the Earth and the long-term change in climate.

He was allowed to contemplate and to do his work. What more could a researcher ask for?

Therefore, I respectfully bow my head in memory of Milutin Milanković's achievements as well as Kálmán Szily.

**Thank you for your attention.**