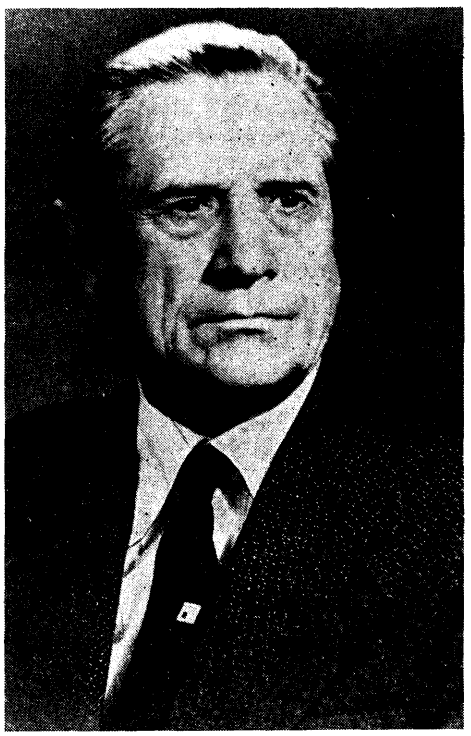
Russian Chemical Reviews

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Vasilii Vladimirovich Korshak

It is with deep regret that the editorial board and staff of the journal "Uspekhi Khimii" announce that Vasilii Vladimirovich Korshak, the most long-standing member of the journal's editorial board and its chief editor from 1951 to 1972, died on the fourteenth of June 1988 at the age of eighty.

Vasilii Vladimirovich Korshak will go down in the history of Soviet science as a researcher who through his own efforts engineered the advent and development of the chemistry of synthetic high molecular weight compounds and who created a widely recognised school of science. As a result of his initiative the High Molecular Weight Compounds Laboratory was organised as early as 1938 at the Academy of Sciences, and he remained the permanent head to the end of his life. In 1953 V.V.Korshak was elected first corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in the field of "the chemistry of high molecular weight compounds".

V.V.Korshak had unusually broad and diverse interests in the field of polymer chemistry. The discovery of many new polymers and new processes for polymer production can be associated with his name. He proposed that polymers should be divided into carbon-chain and hetero-chain types which is now well-recognised, and clearly proved the need to distinguish between equilibrium and non-equilibrium polycondensation processes. In recent years V.V.Korshak actively developed and promulgated concepts on the heterogeneous state of polymer units as one of the fundamental differences between polymers and low molecular weight compounds which largely determine a whole range of properties of polymeric materials.

V.V.Korshak devoted much attention to the interpretation and systemisation of scientific data and to the training of engineers and scientists. For fifty years he chaired various departments at the Mendeleev Institute of Chemical Technology in Moscow. He was

the author of the first Soviet text-books on polymers, and for one of these publications, "The Chemistry of High Molecular Weight Compounds", he was awarded the State Prize of the USSR. Altogether V.V.Korshak published more than thirty monographs and acted as supervisor to thirty five Doctors of Science and more than two hundred Ph.D. students.

For a number of years V.V.Korshak was a member of the Committee of the General and Applied Chemistry Division, president of the Scientific Council of High Molecular Weight Compounds, a plenary member of the Lenin and State Prize Committee, president of the Examination Council, and a plenary member of the All-Union Certification Commission. V.V.Korshak was elected as a foreign member of the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic and the Academy of Sciences of Finland.

The contribution of V.V.Korshak to the advancement of polymer science and the training of scientists is highly esteemed by the Soviet State and he was awarded the Lenin Prize, two State Prizes, the Order of Lenin, the Order of the October Revolution, the Order of the Red Banner of Labour, the Order of the Red Star, two "Decorations of Honour", and many medals.

The fond memory of Vasilii Vladimirovich Korshak, an eminent scientist, a man of principle, and a modest and extremely warm-hearted person, will for ever remain in our hearts.

Editorial Board and Staff