



To the memory of Mark Efimovich Vol'pin

On September 28, 1996 an outstanding chemist, Full Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Mark Efimovich Vol'pin deceased at the age of 73.

The scientific activity of M. E. Vol'pin has been intimately connected with the A. N. Nesmeyanov Institute of Organoelement Compounds of the RAS, where he worked his way up from a research worker to Director of the Institute. The studies of M. E. Vol'pin have initiated a lot of new areas in organic and organometallic chemistry, catalysis, and the chemistry of coordination compounds. His creative work was characterized by profundity of projects and was rich in ideas. His name is associated with the investigations of carbenes, carbenoids, and nonbenzoid aromatic compounds; with the discovery of the chemical binding of nitrogen by transition metal compounds under mild conditions; with fundamental works on complexes of small molecules with transition metals and their synthetic use; with the discovery of layered compounds of graphite with transition metals and investigation of their catalytic properties; with the discovery of organic aprotic superacids and their use in the functionalization of alkanes; with the synthesis of amino acid and peptide derivatives of fullerenes; with the discovery of pH-dependent organometallic sources of free radicals and the ways of using them as initiators of radical reactions; and with modelling of enzymic redox processes. In recent years, the studies carried out by M. E. Vol'pin have been aimed at the development of new methods for the therapy of cancer. Highly effective original antitumor and fungicidal drugs and preparations for plant protection based on cobalt complexes acting as chemical sources of active radical species, have been developed under his leadership.

M. E. Vol'pin founded and headed one of the leading scientific schools in organometallic chemistry and catalysis, which has received world-wide recognition. He made a great contribution to the foundation and development of the system of scientific information in our country.

The merits of Academician M. E. Vol'pin were highly appreciated by the world scientific community. He was elected as a member of the European Academy (Academia Europaea) and was awarded with the Lenin and State Prizes, with the Gold Medal named after A. N. Nesmeyanov, with the Silver Medal of the Royal Chemical Society of Great Britain, and with the "Maison de Chemie" prize of the French Academy.

M. E. Vol'pin gave much effort to the organization activity. He has worked as Deputy Director and, later, as Director of the A. N. Nesmeyanov Institute of Organoelement Compounds of the RAS and he have largely consolidated the research staff of the Institute; he was a member of the Bureau of the Division of General and Technical Chemistry of the RAS, the Chairman of the Scientific Council on Organoelement Chemistry of the RAS, and a member of some other Scientific Councils. M. E. Vol'pin was a member of Editorial Boards of a number of leading Russian and International scientific journals, including "Russian Chemical Bulletin", and a permanent organizer and scientific leader of many conferences and symposia.

Mark Efimovich Vol'pin was a splendid person — charming, sympathetic, and generous. As a man of this sort he will remain on the memories of his numerous friends, followers, and colleagues.