In Memoriam K. I. Sakodynskii (1930 – 1996)

It is with great sadness that I report the sudden death of Professor K. I. Sakodynskii, on May 10, 1996.

Karl Ivanovich Sakodynskii has been well known to the international chromatographic community. On the occasion of his sixtieth birthday, in 1990, we have discussed in detail his life and achievements [1] and thus, we do not have to repeat them here. In the last six years he continued his activities, now extending them to the development of methods using preparative liquid chromatography. He also organized the Russian M. S. Tswett Association of Chromatographers and has served as its first president. In spite of the bad financial situations of scientists in Russia he found ways to participate at various international chromatography meetings. Toward the end of March of this year, he attended a meeting in Germany and there was no sign of any illness. He returned to Moscow, preparing for his next trip to Riva del Garda, to attend the International Symposium on Capillary Chromatography in mid-May. One week before his planned departure he suddenly fell ill: he was rushed to the hospital and operated, but it could not save him anymore.

One of the major activities of Professor Sakodynskii was related to the study of the life and achievements of M. S. Tswett, the inventor of chromatography. In the last couple of years, he has worked to put together a small book on the evolution of chromatography, placing Tswett's achievements in the proper context and also including other serious and humorous material. His goal was to have it ready and distributed at the Riva del Garda meeting, and he succeeded against overwhelming odds to have it printed on time. In fact, the copies of *Chromatography Seriously and With a Smile* arrived on time at the meeting, but he could not anymore enjoy the pleasure to introduce it to the participants: this sad duty remained the task of the Symposium organizers.

I have known Karl Ivanovich for 25 years. We became good friends and spent many pleasant occasions together, both in his native country and in various parts of the world. I enjoyed very much his hospitality in his native country and I hope that he also enjoyed his visits here, learning the vastness of Texas or the intricacies how to eat a Maine lobster ... I also had the honour to coauthor with him a major study on Tswett's activities,

and we just started to discuss how next year, the 125th anniversary of Tswett's birth should be celebrated. Now, we have to do this without him.

Karl Ivanovich was a very open person, with whom everybody could be befriended at the first moment. He had a soft humour and a deep knowledge in the physico-chemical foundations of the chromatographic technique. He was a real Russian in his soul, but at the same

time, he was also a man of the World, knowing and understanding people of different origin and philosophy. We shall miss him very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. S. Ettre', with a stylized flourish at the end.

L. S. Ettre

[1] Chromatographia **29**, 201–202 (March 1990).