

OBITUARY OF V.S.KLIMENKOV

Vladimir Stepanovich Klimenkov, one of the most senior members of the staff of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Man-Made Fibre, died suddenly on February 8 of this year.

V.S.Klimenkov was born April 30, 1900 in a doctor's family. In recognition of his father's services to his employer, the Trekhgornaya Manufaktura concern, the latter financed the higher education of V.S.Klimenkov who in 1929 graduated in organic chemistry from the Moscow Institute of the National Economy.

V.S.Klimenkov began his working life in the L.Ya. Karpov Physico-Chemical Institute under the direction of S.S.Medvedev and V.A.Kargin. As manager of the semi-plant unit and senior scientific assistant at the laboratory of heterogeneous catalysis of the Institute V.S.Klimenkov worked on the catalytic conversion of ethanol to acetone, acetaldehyde and acetic acid and at the same time researched chloroprene polymerization which subsequently was the subject of his thesis.

In 1939 V.S.Klimenkov accepted a post as the Scientific Research Institute of the Tyre Industry where he worked in the fields of butadiene polymerization with styrene and low-temperature polymerization.

Since 1949 V.S.Klimenkov had been laboratory head at the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Man-Made Fibre where he organized research in the production of carbochain polymers and fibres and set up experimental spinning equipment for these fibres. The first Soviet experiments in the production of acrylonitrile polymers, copolymers and fibres were conducted on this equipment together with trial spinnings of Saran and polyolefin fibres. Other work carried out in the laboratory under the direction of V.S.Klimenkov ranged from research in the kinetics of acrylonitrile copolymerization, analyses in the field of the packing density of polymeric compounds in relation to the properties of the original monomers, to the influence of the chemical nature of the second component on the structure and fibre-forming properties of the nascent polymer. It was, moreover, due to V.S.Klimenkov's organizing ability that methods were developed for the industrial-scale production of polypropylene fibres and of Nitron.

A scientist and engineer, a highly erudite, interesting, cheerful and kind person, and a tireless sportsman - that is how Vladimir Stepanovich Klimenkov will always be remembered.

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