

OBITUARY

IVAN GAVRILOVICH RUSAKOV (1902-1995)

Ivan Gavrilovich Rusakov, a leading acoustics scientist, died on March 27, 1995. He was a leading specialist on acoustic measurements and the patriarch of acoustic metrology.

His creative activities began in 1926 at Leningrad Electrophysical Institute under the direction of the founder of the Russian acoustics school, Academician N. N. Andreev.

Between 1936 and 1941, when he was a member of the Kalinin Leningrad Polytechnical Institute, Rusakov performed much instructional work as a lecturer in the Department of Instrumentation and conducted research in vibrometry and dynamic tests on complicated oscillatory systems. His research on piezoelectric phenomenon were of major significance for piezoacoustic devices.

His creative activities were concerned with leading metrological institutes for 18 years. From 1944, he worked at the Mendeleev All-Union Metrology Research Institute, and between 1952 and 1963, at the All-Union Technical Physics and Electronics Research Institute. In those institutes, Rosakov set up metrological laboratories for acoustics and hydroacoustics, which had unique equipment, and founded scientific schools of metrologists and trained 22 Ph.Ds.

He played a particular part in organizing the metrological laboratories for acoustics and hydroacoustics at the All-Union Technical Physics and Electronics Research Institute. He performed calculations on a sound-measuring chamber and a large hydroacoustic basin, and supervised their construction. Under his direction, measuring equipments unique for the time were developed for precision acoustic and hydroacoustic measurements in the range from infrasonic to high ultrasonic frequencies. These were used in national standards for acoustic pressure.

His authority and erudition in physics were recognized not only in the USSR but also abroad. His knowledge and practical experience were valued by academicians N. N. Andreev, A. N. Krylov, and B. P. Konstantinov together with other major specialists in acoustics. He also represented with honor the interests of this country in international organizations. He was the chairman of the working groups TC 43 (Acoustics) in the International Standards Organization ISO and TC 29 (Electroacoustics) of the International Electrotechnical Commission IEC. He was responsible for the text of the International Electrotechnical Dictionary on Acoustics.

In the last years before his well-deserved retirement, Rusanov conducted many operations in connection with the Physics abstracting journal, where he was a member of the editorial board and headed the section on the physical principles of electronics, radiophysics, and acoustics.

While he was a pensioner, Rusakov maintained vigorous relationships with specialists in many research organizations until his last days.

His memory as a scientist with broad erudition, exceptional competence, and geniality will live long after him in the hearts of all who had dealings with him.