

## OBITUARY

A. Ya. LEIKIN

Professor Aron Yakovlevich Leikin, Deputy Scientific Director of the Kharkov State Scientific-Research Institute of Metrology (KhGNIIM) and member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union since 1940 tragically died at the age of 53 on May 18, 1972.



At the height of his creative forces the outstanding metrological scientist and a man with daring creative thought, high culture and, great erudition as well as a sensitive and kind comrade has left us.

Aron Yakovlevich commenced his metrological activity in 1950 after an extensive working apprenticeship. Having graduated from the Khar'kov Electrotechnical Institute in 1941, he joined the Soviet army. After the Great Patriotic War he began his teaching and scientific work. Since then he dedicated his entire energy, thought, and gifts to the development of our science and technology.

In the course of his employment at the KhGNIIM, A. Ya. Leikin graduated from junior scientific collaborator to laboratory head and deputy scientific director of the Institute. During many years he conducted important scientific and organizational work, paying great attention to scientific research at the highest level, and to raising the efficiency of scientific work. As an excellent organizer he contributed much to the development of the Institute and the establishment of its experimental base.

Aron Yakovlevich made a great contribution to the development of our metrology. He is a leading expert in the production of masers and lasers. He was one of the original developers of our first atomic clock which served to reproduce for the first time in our country the units of time and frequency by means of atomic constants. Under the guidance and with the direct participation of A. Ya. Leikin the KhGNIIM developed and produced a reference standard of time and frequency, and reference quantum measures of frequency were adopted in metrological practice. He established at the Institute a new scientific discipline – the metrology of lasers. Under his guidance highly stable lasers were developed for metrological work and new methods and reference equipment was produced for measuring laser characteristics.

Aron Yakovlevich initiated and supervised the fundamental work of the Institute in producing a single reference standard of time, frequency, and length.

The name of A. Ya. Leikin is widely known both in our country and abroad. He has written over 70 scientific works and monographs. For many years he was engaged in pedagogic and educational work. As one of the organizers of the KhGNIIM post-graduate courses, he continuously supervised the training of scientific experts with the highest qualifications. On his initiative and with his direct participation the Khar'kov Institute of Radiophysics and Radioelectronics established two new departments, those of "Radiophysical Measurements" and "Radiotechnical Measurements."

For his success in developing metrology and standardization and his service to our motherland, A. Ya. Leikin was awarded the order of the "Badge of Honor" and four medals.

His inspiring memory will remain forever in the hearts of all those who knew him.

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