Leikin Grigorii Aleksandrovich[†] (1923–2010)

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Grigorii Aleksandrovich Leikin was born on April 6, 1923, in Moscow, graduated from the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics of Moscow State University (1943–1948), and finished postgraduate studies at the Shternberg State Astronomy Institute (1948–1951). The candidate's dissertation "Study on the Hypotheses about Heating of the Solar Crown," whose theme was suggested by I.S. Shklovskii, was defended in 1952, and the article with the results of the dissertation was published in *Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR* in 1953. His first article devoted to the research of stars with emission hydrogen lines was published earlier, in 1949. Leikin is the author of approximately 100 scientific articles.

From 1952 to 1956, Leikin worked as a scientific editor of the journal *Nature* at the department of O.Yu. Shmidt, and in 1956 he joined the Astronomical Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The Commission on Interplanetary Communications, of which Leikin was a member, was created at the Astronomical Council. From then, the scientific activity of Leikin turned out to be associated with the themes of space exploration.

Leikin carried out theoretical research on the dynamics of artificial Earth satellites and the physics of the upper ionosphere. The Zvenigorod Experimental Station of the Astronomical Council was created in 1958 to perform optical observations of artificial Earth satellites, and Leikin helped develop the devices and methods for observations. His work in this field was marked by inventor's certificates. He was one of the leading organizers at the network for observations over

artificial Earth satellites. In 1959, Leikin taught astronomy to the future first cosmonauts.

When the epoch of the active mastering of space came, the activity of Grigorii Aleksandrovich was concerned with interpreting the data obtained by space vehicles. The range of his interests included interpretation of the morphological properties of the structure of the Moon, Jupiter's satellites, and small planets of the solar system. The interesting hypothesis about the formation of these structures at the expense of hits by the specific sort of asteroids representing the gravitationally bound assembly of fragments with the common dust atmosphere was advanced by Leikin in his last publication "On the Nature of Swirls on the Moon" in *Astronomicheskii Vestnik (Solar System Research)* (2002).

Leikin was an outstanding personality. His encyclopedic erudition made him one of the leading experts in the most versatile problems of astrophysics, geophysics, and space exploration. He was always full of ideas that were often nontrivial and shared them with those who surrounded him with pleasure. He took a vivid interest in new scientific discoveries and ideas to the end of his life. Leikin was an exceptionally decent and honest man, a true citizen of the country. He always took interest in what happened in Russia and the world. He had a pedagogic gift that permitted him to attract the youth. His permanent benevolence and attention to people and his desire to help in solving both scientific and other problems attracted people to him. His memory will remain in the hearts of those who knew him forever.

[†] Deceased.