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This issue of the journal *Izvestiya. Physics of the Solid Earth* is dedicated to the blessed memory of Mark Naumovich Berdichevsky, a leading Russian geophysicist. Professor Berdichevsky was one of the founders of deep geoelectrics in Russia.

Mark Berdichevsky was born on April 2, 1923, in Kiev. His father was an associate professor at the Kiev Polytechnic Institute. In 1940, he graduated from secondary school in Kiev and in the same year he entered the Faculty of Geology of the Kiev Polytechnic University. At the start of the Great Patriotic War, he was drafted for military service in the Soviet Army. Later, he was wounded and demobilized. In 1946, he moved to Moscow and entered Moscow State University's Faculty of Geology and Soil Science. In 1949, he graduated from the university, having specialized as a geologist and geophysicist.

From 1949 to 1969, Mark Berdichevsky worked at the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Exploration Geophysics (Geophysical Methods of Prospecting (VNIIGEOFIZIKA) at the USSR Ministry of Geology. In 1953, he defended his candidate's dissertation "Electrical Prospecting with the Telluric Current Method". In 1967, he defended his doctoral dissertation "Electrical Prospecting by means of Magnetotelluric Profiling".

In 1969, Mark Berdichevsky was on a competitive basis elected Professor of the Department of the Geophysical Methods of the Earth Crust Exploration, Faculty of Geology, Moscow State University. The rest of his life was closely tied to Moscow State University, where he delivered lectures on electrical prospecting and field theory and conducted special courses. Professor Berdichev-

sky spent a lot of his time preparing new research studies. There are 40 candidates and 2 doctors of science among his students.

The scope of Prof. Berdichevsky's research interests was linked with applied electrical prospecting and deep geoelectrics. He is the author of the methods of magnetotelluric profiling and magnetovariational prospecting. Mark Berdichevsky participated in a magnetotelluric survey of Western Siberia, which led to the discovery of the world's largest Urengoy gas field.

Professor Berdichevsky developed the methods of digital processing of the results of magnetotelluric and magnetovariational observations and geologic interpretation of data of electromagnetic sounding under conditions of inhomogeneous media. He also developed methods for the interpretation of the results of geoelectric observations under conditions of the horizontal heterogeneity of sedimentary cover, elaborated the methodological basis of sea geoelectrics, and suggested new methods of magnetovariational support for hydromagnetic surveys, taking into account bathymetric and geoelectric heterogeneity.

Professor Berdichevsky wrote more than 300 articles and 8 monographs. Since 1993, he was an Acting Member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and since 1991, a Foreign Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

*Editorial Board of the journal
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