OBITUARY

Vladimir Aleksandrovich Krol' (1923–2008)

DOI: 10.1134/S1070427208100352

Vladimir Aleksandrovich Krol', a prominent scientist in the field of synthetic rubber production, doctor of chemical sciences, professor, winner of the Lenin and State Prizes, eldest staff member of the Lebedev Research Institute of Synthetic Rubber (VNIISK), died on June 7, 2008, at the age of 84, after serious sickness. A gifted man with a heroic fate passed away.

Krol' was born on November 16, 1923, in Omsk into a family of hereditary physicians. In June 1941, at the age of 17, he graduated with excellent marks from secondary school no. 37 of Omsk and hoped to continue the job of his parents. However, his destiny was different. Since the autumn of 1941, Krol' worked as a turner at a military plant in Novosibirsk. In May 1942, he volunteered into the Red Army and participated in battles. He was wounded twice (for the second time, heavily). After demobilization in the autumn of 1944, he entered the Lensovet Institute of Technology. After the second year, he passed to the University and graduated from the Chemical Faculty with honor in 1949. His specialization was organic synthesis. All the further activities of Krol' are associated with VNIISK. In 1953, he defended his Candidate's dissertation "Activity of Free Radicals in Connection with the Polymerization Process." In 1963, he became a senior researcher. Under the guidance of Prof. B.A. Dolgoplosk (Academician since 1964), Krol' actively participates in studies concerning the problem of butadiene polymerization. For a series cycle of studies on catalytic systems for the synthesis of *cis*-polybutadiene, Krol' was awarded in 1961 a Diploma of the Mendeleev All-Union Chemical Society, and for a series of papers "Development of *cis*-Polybutadiene Rubber" he, together with co-workers, received the Lebedev prize of the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences. In 1967, Krol' and co-workers were awarded a Lenin Prize "For a Series of Studies on the Development of Regular Rubbers and of a Process for Their Commercial Production." The development and mastering of the production of two new kinds of rubber on a number of plants was at that time a major achievement of the Soviet science and engineering. The contribution of Krol' to this success is very large.

In 1972, Krol' very successfully defended his Doctoral (Chemistry) dissertation. It concerned the polymerization of butadiene and the development and commercial implementation of a procedure for producing SKD (*cis*-1,4-polybutadiene) rubber. In 1973, Krol' became a professor, and in 1978 he was awarded a State Prize for his studies.

From 1985 to 1989, Krol', along with heading a laboratory in VNIISK, occupied a professor's post at the Chair of Macromolecular Compounds of the Leningrad State University. He delivered the course of chemical technology of polymers and supervised diploma works. In the period from 1965 to 1990, twelve candidate's dissertations were defended under the guidance of V.A. Krol'.

Vladimir Aleksandrovich Krol' was a very good and comprehensively gifted person, a talented scientist, an excellent experimenter, and a tireless traveler. He enjoyed deserved universal esteem. Krol' spent the last period of his life in Israel, but he remained the Russian citizen and visited St. Petersburg every year.

Staff members of the Research Institute of Synthetic Rubber, colleagues, and friends