
OBITUARY

Oleg Grigor'evich Zarubitskii (1936–2005)

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On December 29, 2005, in Kiev, died of severe illness, at the age of 69, Oleg Grigor'evich Zarubitskii. He was a prominent electrochemist, chairman of the Scientific Council of the National Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine for Electrochemistry, Honored scientist and technologist of the Ukraine, doctor of technical science, professor, corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine, and head of the Department of electrochemical refining of metals and metalloids (Vernadskii Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry, National Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine). During many years, until very recently, O.G. Zarubitskii had been an active author of *Zhurnal Prikladnoi Khimii* (Russian Journal of Applied Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences).

Zarubitskii was born on July 26, 1931, at a town of Borzna, Chernigov oblast, Ukraine. In 1950, he graduated from the Faculty of chemical engineering of Kiev Polytechnic Institute and, in the same year, commenced his scientific activities at the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, where he made a career from an engineer to deputy director for science (1993–2001) and head of a department at the Institute. Zarubitskii was one of the most prominent representatives of the scientific school in electrochemistry of molten salt system, created in the Ukraine by V.A. Plotnikov (1873–1947), V.A. Izbekov (1881–1963), and Yu.K. Delimarskii (1904–1990).

An originally thinking talented scientist, Zarubitskii made a notable contribution to the development of quite a number of areas of high-temperature electrochemistry, his studies had always been closely related the demand of the technological practice. During his entire scientific activities, Zarubitskii paid a considerable attention to study of processes used to produce and refine heavy nonferrous and rare metals in molten electrolytes. Zarubitskii and co-workers were the first in the world to implement on the industrial scale methods for manufacture of bismuth, lead, and indium by electrolysis of molten salts. Zarubitskii was directly involved in the development of worldwide unprecedented apparatus for high-temperature chemical-metallurgical processes: high output capacity diaphragm



electrolyzers and electrolytic baths with bipolar electrodes and thin-layer electrolytes. Zarubitskii and co-workers made a remarkable contribution to investigation of the corrosion resistance of refractories, metals, and alloys used as construction materials in industrial installations that use molten electrolytes. Zarubitskii suggested advanced techniques for chemical, electrochemical, and chemical-thermal treatment of the surface of ferrous and nonferrous metals in ionic melts, performed original studies in the field of electrolytic metallurgy, and developed a technology for electrochemical deactivation of the surface of metals and alloys to remove radioactive contaminations.

Quite a number of Zarubitskii's recent studies were aimed to solve most important energy-related and ecological problems. He suggested an efficient method for production of hydrogen by electrolysis of hydrated melts and developed an economical technique for production of pure amorphous powdered silicon to be used in manufacture of solar cells.

Zarubitskii's scientific legacy is vast. Of particular scientific and practical importance are the monographs *Elektroliticheskoe rafinirovaniye tyazhelykh metallov v ionnykh rasplavakh* (Electrolytic Refining of Heavy Metals in Ionic Melts) (together with Delimarskii,

Moscow, 1975) and *Ochistka metallov v rasplavakh shchelochei* (Purification of Metals in Alkali Melts) (Moscow, 1981). Zarubitskii was the author of more than 650 scientific works, including 5 monographs and 230 inventor's certificates and patents. His studies were recognized all over the world and reported at international scientific conferences in numerous countries.

Zarubitskii was distinguished by purposefulness, high working capacity, and position of principle in de-

fending his scientific ideas and views. The Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry, National Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine, and electrochemists of the Ukraine suffered a severe loss. Oleg Grigor'evich Zarubitskii died in the prime of his creativeness. His colleagues will preserve the memory of this very good person and scientists his ideas and designs will be further developed by his pupils and followers.

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