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Early Russian Organic Chemists and Their Legacy

 Springer

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Preface

The organic chemists of Russia during the pre-revolutionary period counted among their number some of the most creative and talented chemists of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as is attested by the number of reactions and empirical rules bearing their names. From quite modest beginnings, higher education in Russia gradually grew into the point where Russian universities and the organic chemists in them could produce work to rival any done in France, Germany, Britain, or America. In this Brief, the history of the development of organic chemistry in Russia is discussed, with special emphasis on the Russian organic chemists who made important contributions to the science.

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Spelling and Transliteration

Russian uses the Cyrillic alphabet, and so names must be transliterated to the Roman alphabet. The exact transliteration used depends on the language into which the transliteration occurs, and even this is not a constant within the same language. A good example of this is provided by the name of N. N. Sokolov, which is transliterated into German as Socoloff by *Justus Liebigs Annalen der Chemie*, and as Sokoloff by *Erdmans Journal für Praktische Chemie*.

In this book, the BGN/PCGN romanization system for Russian is used. The consonants ж, и, ч, ш and щ are transliterated as zh, ts, ch, sh, and shch respectively. The vowels й, ы, э, ю, and я are transliterated as i, y, e, yu, and ya, respectively. The vowel e at the beginnings of words is transliterated as ye. The soft sign (ь) is rendered as ' , and the hard sign (Ъ) is rendered as ''.

In citations of articles in western journals, names are given as transliterated by the journals, so the name of one individual often appears with more than one spelling.