

## IN MEMORY OF IRINA NIKITICHNA GONCHAROVA

(October 10, 1931 to April 22, 1997)

Ya. Stradyn'

Irina Nikitichna Goncharova departed from us suddenly on April 22, 1997 in a hospital in Riga.

There is no need to remind the many authors and readers of "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds" that Dr. Irina Goncharova had been Executive Secretary of the journal almost from its foundation in 1965, and her death is a significant, irreplaceable loss to the journal.

Irina Goncharova (Makarova) was a student of Academician I. Ya. Postovskii and for many years a collaborator of Academician S. A. Giller. She was born in Ekaterinburg (Sverdlovsk) in a family of white-collar workers. From 1949 to 1954 she studied at the Chemical Faculty of Leningrad State University and ended with a thesis carried out under the guidance of Prof. I. A. Favorskaya. She then worked for some time as a shift chemist at a vitamin plant in Leningrad and from 1955 to 1963 at the Urals Polytechnical Institute, where her instructors were Z. V. Pushkareva and I. Ya. Postovskii. She submitted a Candidate's Thesis on "Investigations in the Series of Benzodiazines." This postgraduate work was carried out under the guidance of I. Ya. Postovskii.

In 1963 Goncharova moved with her son to Riga and started work at the Institute of Organic Synthesis, Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR in the Laboratory of Heterocyclic Compounds, headed by S. A. Giller — the well-known heterocyclic chemist and the first director of the Institute. In 1965 Goncharova was selected for the post of senior research assistant, and in 1975 she was given the appropriate academic title. In 1992 Goncharova became doctor of chemistry of the Latvian Republic.

In the first period of her work at the Institute of Organic Synthesis, Goncharova was engaged in the synthesis of thiophene derivatives, and she then participated in the development of a method for the production of diaminopimelic acid from Estonian oil shale. In 1970 she began researches into the synthetic analogs of purinenucleosides and the corresponding mono- and polynucleosides. The idea of this cycle of researches was conceived by Giller in the last years of his life for the purpose of the synthesis and physicochemical and biochemical investigation of derivatives of 9-(dihydroxy-2-alkyl)adenine<sup>+</sup> and hypoxanthine, the polycondensation of which in the opinion of the authors should lead to oligomers modelling the structure of natural nucleic acids. After Giller's death the direction of these investigations was modified a little. From 1975, in the laboratory directed by M. Lipak, Goncharov undertook investigations into the synthesis of purine derivatives. Compounds containing dioxane and 1,3-dihydroxypropyl groups at position 9 [9-(dihydroxyalkyl)purines, their cyclic analogs 9-(1,3-dioxan-5-yl)purines, and the 6-aminoacyl derivatives of these compounds] formed a new class of biologically active substances. The aim of the work was to seek new stimulants for the growth of microorganisms and biochemical processes — the macromolecular biosynthesis of protein, RNA, the biosynthesis of amino acids (lysine, glutaric acid). Some of the compounds synthesized by Goncharov, which have been submitted to biochemical investigation, exhibit clearly defined cytokinin activity.

Scientific results obtained with the participation of Goncharov were presented at the seventh, eighth, and eleventh IUPAC international symposia on the chemistry of natural compounds in Riga (1970), New Delhi (1972), and Varna (1978) and at conferences.

Goncharova was the author of 47 scientific papers and other publications and 14 inventor's certificates, and two dissertations were prepared under her guidance. She was awarded a prize of the Presidium of the Latvian Academy of Sciences (1975) and the highest award of the Institute of Organic Synthesis — the S. A. Giller medal (1991).

For more than 20 years Goncharova successfully combined her scientific research in the region of synthetic organic chemistry with the responsibilities of executive secretary of the journal "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds." She was recruited to this work by the first editor-in-chief of the journal S. A. Giller and held this position successfully to the last days of her life under the leadership of the present editor-in-chief E. Lukevics. She participated actively in the preparation and publication of 360 issues of the journal and in the publication of topical collections. She provided a major link between the

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chemist authors — the heterocyclic chemists of Latvia, Russia, and other countries — and organized the operation, while being the true soul of the journal.

All those who knew Irina Nikitichna highly regarded her outstanding proficiency, her exacting demands, her energy, her generous qualities, her optimism, and her magnanimity. She will remain in our memory for many years.

*The Editor-in-Chief, the Editorial Board, and the Scientific Editors of the journal deeply mourn the loss of Doctor of Chemistry I. N. Goncharova and express their deepest sympathy to the family and relatives of the deceased.*