

ANNIVERSARIES AND DATES



ALEKSEI NIKOLAEVICH KOST (1915-1979)

ON THE NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DATE OF BIRTH

On October 18, 2005 Aleksei Nikolaevich Kost, Professor of the M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, a distinguished figure of science and technology in the USSR, and an outstanding scientist well known worldwide for his work in the field of the chemistry of the heterocyclic compounds of nitrogen, would have been 90 years old. Scientists and colleagues greatly esteem the memory of this charming happy person, whose goodwill and scientific altruism are remembered by all who knew him.

Aleksei Nikolaevich Kost graduated from the Chemical Faculty of Moscow State University in 1939 and then worked under the leadership of outstanding pedagog and scientist A. P. Terent'ev. His scientific activity was interrupted by World War II. From June, 1941 to the end of 1945 he served in the front-line army. In 1946 Kost defended a candidate's thesis on "Acrylonitriles as starting material for the synthesis of tetrahydropyridines and pyrazolines" and in 1956 a doctoral thesis on "Investigations in the synthesis of tetrahydropyridines and pyrazoles." In 1958 he became professor in the Department of organic chemistry at the Chemical Faculty of Moscow State University.

From 1969 he headed the problem laboratory that he created in the Department on the chemistry and biological action of nitrogen bases.

His great erudition and his varied interests enabled A. N. Kost to make a substantial contribution to various regions of heterocyclic chemistry. The strategy of new approaches to synthesis in the region of the most varied aromatic and saturated heterocyclic systems was always a major interest in his scientific life. Two unique

chemical transformations discovered under his leadership, i.e., the cyclization of acid arylhydrazides to 2-aminoindoles (the Kost reaction) and the isomerization recyclization of π -deficient systems to π -excessive systems by the action of nucleophilic agents (the Kost–Sagitullin rearrangement), were named after him. Kost was the author of about 600 scientific papers, he obtained more than 100 author's certificates, and one of his works was registered as a discovery.

With his distinguished creative potential, he rallied together around him not only students direct from the Department of organic chemistry but also young colleagues from all ends of the USSR and the nations of the socialist camp, captivating them and inspiring them with fresh and original scientific ideas.

For more than ten years up to his death Aleksei Nikolaevich was Deputy Chief Editor of our journal, being a patient and exacting mentor for all the authors and the team of scientific editors. The fact that "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds" has received wide international recognition is due to the great contribution made by Aleksei Nikolaevich.

Not only the students of Aleksei Nikolaevich (60 candidates and 15 doctors of chemical sciences) but also his "scientific grandchildren," widely scattered among many scientific centers throughout Russia and abroad, are now working in the field of heterocyclic chemistry and scrupulously maintain the scientific traditions of the A. N. Kost school.

This is assisted in no small way by the regularly held scientific meetings – the "Kost lectures" – which bring together a large audience of students, colleagues, and admirers of this unforgettable person. The next conference will be held on October 17-21, 2005.

(A bibliography of the most important scientific papers of Prof. A. N. Kost was published in issue No. 10, 1980 of this journal.)