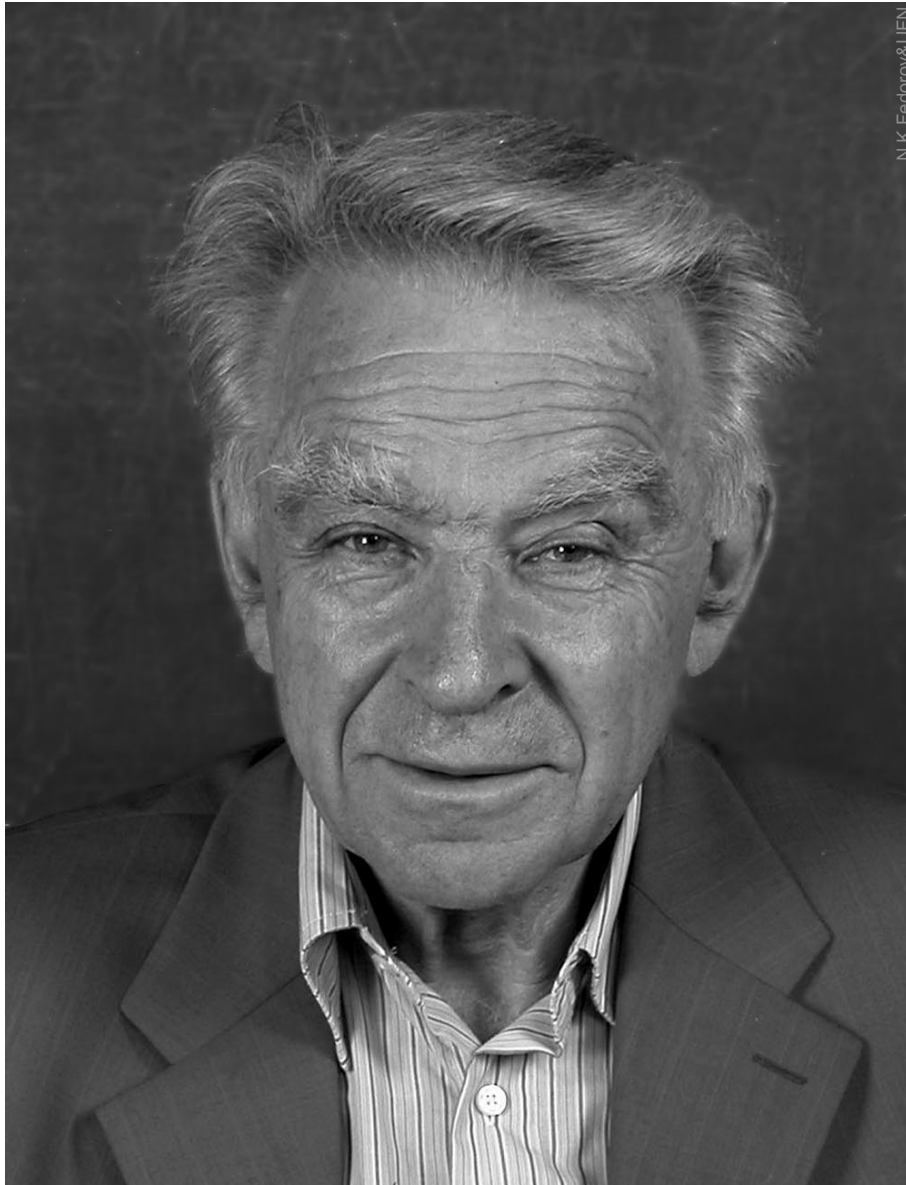


LEONID VENIAMINOVICH KELDYSH

(07.04.1931–11.11.2016)



*The Editorial Board of the “Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk”
 (“Physics–Uspekhi”) journal announces with deep regret the death of
 LEONID VENIAMINOVICH KELDYSH*

on 11 November 2016 at the age of 85. He was a distinguished scientist and prominent citizen, a brilliant theoretical physicist, educator, and enlightener, a promoter of science, and an academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He was a member of the Editorial Board of “Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk” (“Physics–Uspekhi”) starting in 1964 and Editor-in-Chief of our journal beginning in 2009, and in many respects he defined the face of our journal for more than half a century.

The Advisory Board, Editorial Board, and editors of the journal convey their heartfelt condolences to and grieve along with his relatives, friends, colleagues, pupils, and all whom fortune granted the privilege of knowing Leonid Veniaminovich Keldysh.

Leonid Veniaminovich Keldysh devoted his life to science. This trite expression, quite often pronounced automatically, regains its literary significance with regard to L V Keldysh. Comprehending science, working in science, and preserving science was the content of his life. That which L V Keldysh did in physics would have been sufficient for several people. He made contributions to different fields of condensed-matter physics, nonlinear optics, and quantum theory of nonequilibrium processes. New areas of physics made their appearance due to the remarkable ideas he expressed. His name will endure forever through the names of effects, formulas, and theories: the Franz—Keldysh effect, the Keldysh parameter, and the Keldysh diagram technique.

L V Keldysh's contribution to science was recognized by numerous awards: from the 1964 M V Lomonosov Prize of the Academy of Science of the USSR to the M V Lomonosov Grand Gold Medal of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) in 2015. Among the many recent awards are an Russian Federation President's Prize in the field of education (2003), S I Vavilov Gold Medal (2005), RUSNANOPRIZE-2009 International Award in the field of nanotechnology, and the I Ya Pomeranchuk Prize (2014). L V Keldysh's work is well known to and highly appreciated by physicists around the world. In 1975, he received the Hewlett–Packard Prize of the European Physical Society and in 1994 the Alexander Humboldt Prize; in 1995 he was elected a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences, in 1996 he was elected a member of the American Physical Society, and in 1997 he was honored with the prestigious Roentgen Professorship Award of Wurzburg University. The role of Leonid Veniaminovich as a man who brought esteem to his homeland with his labor was obvious not only to his colleagues: in 2001, he was the first physicist to become a laureate of the nongovernmental Triumph Prize.

From 1964 through 1998, L V Keldysh was a member of the “Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk” (“Physics–Uspekhi”) journal's Editorial Board and, undoubtedly, determined to a large extent the face of the Journal during that period; however, in 2009, after the death of V L Ginzburg (who was the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal from 1998 to 2009), Leonid Veniaminovich did not immediately agree to become Editor-in-Chief of the Journal. As a highly responsible person, he did not intend to simply fill this position and doubted if his understanding of physics was broad enough to responsibly select papers for the Journal in various research areas. To all except L V Keldysh himself, these doubts appeared to be pointless: few could equal him in depth of understanding in many fields of physics. When holding the post of the Journal's Editor-in-Chief, he tried to ensure that only highest-quality papers found their way to publication in “Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk” (“Physics–Uspekhi”) journal, and so he would personally look through virtually all submitted material. In his last years, work on the Journal was, perhaps, the only obligation he continued to discharge, which he did with enthusiasm and with attention to the Journal almost to the last days of his life.

Beginning in the late 1980s, L V Keldysh had to assume different administrative obligations, which were burdensome to him, but he considered it impossible to reject them, for he felt himself personally responsible for the preservation of science in Russia. And during all these different periods of our modern history, Leonid Veniaminovich lived in the same way — not conforming to circumstances. He was a highly independent person, and it was therefore impossible to make him take a decision which he disagreed with.

Leonid Veniaminovich left no published autobiographic notes, although he related many interesting stories to his friends and colleagues. It is desirable to preserve the image of this unique and inimitable person for posterity, and so we make a request to all those who can and wish to share reminiscences about L V Keldysh to send them to the “Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk” (“Physics–Uspekhi”) journal in order to create a special page, “In Memory of Leonid Veniaminovich Keldysh” on the site www.ufn.ru.