

Petr Nikolaevich Lebedev

(08.03.1866 – 14.03.1912)



8 March 2016 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Petr Nikolaevich Lebedev

The outstanding Russian physicist Petr Nikolaevich Lebedev was born 150 years ago, on 8 March 1866 (on 24 February according to the Old Style). A brilliant experimenter who managed in that now-distant time to perform subtle experiments on the measurement of the light pressure exerted on solids and gases and the founder of the first Russian scientific school of world-class physicists, P N Lebedev is present (if only implicitly) in the achievements of our science even today. One of his pupils wrote in 1967: “The effect of Lebedev’s personal influence was undoubtedly transferred via his pupils, primarily via P P Lazarev and S I Vavilov, as well as via their pupils, and is inherent in one form or another in our science even now.” Today, almost half a century later, it is valid to say that Lebedev’s influence (now via his scientific grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren) is still present in our science in much prominent scientific work up to the present time.

This issue of *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk* [Physics – Uspekhi] journal contains articles (pp. 153–166) concerned with some aspects of the life and creative activity of P N Lebedev. Some material dedicated to P N Lebedev’s jubilee will be posted on the site of *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk* [Physics – Uspekhi] journal: www.ufn.ru.