

60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUDKER INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS (BINP), SB RAS
100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF G I BUDKER

“Academician Andrei Mikhailovich Budker and his Institute of Nuclear Physics, Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR”: a review of the forthcoming book

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In early May every five years, the Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (BINP) customarily celebrates ‘round’ and ‘semi-round’ dates of the foundation of the institute and the birthdays of its founder and the first director, Andrei Mikhailovich (Gersh Itskovich) Budker. This year, 2018, two remarkable jubilees, 60 years of Institute and the 100th anniversary of the birth of G I Budker, will be celebrated together.

The book *Academician Andrei Mikhailovich Budker and his Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences* was prepared for this double jubilee. The book was compiled from the reminiscences written in the early 1980s by various authors, for the most part physicists, and other people. All of them knew Andrei Mikhailovich, worked with him, or met him for different reasons and under different circumstances.

The book *Academician G I Budker, Essays and Reminiscences*, published in 1988, reproduces perfectly well a portrait of this remarkable man and outstanding scientist.

The compilers of the new edition decided to systemize random the impressions and reminiscences of various authors and to add comments that would certainly be necessary 40 years after the death of Andrei Mikhailovich.

The book contains a description of INP’s history and “Budker’s principles” that underlie the formation of the Institute and were used intensely in its development. Acquaintance with these chapters will allow the reader to learn with greater interest the general opinion of Andrei Mikhailovich, presented in the concluding chapter, of those people who were bringing into force these principles under Budker’s guidance or were interested witnesses of their implementation.

The editors and compilers of the new edition of the book were I N Meshkov, V V Petrov, A N Skriskii, and G N Kulipanov. We shall present some quotations from the book: “Andrei Mikhailovich Budker was a bright and quite versatile person, and to speak of him as a physicist and man is a very interesting and tempting, although very complicated, task even for a professional writer or a journalist. And it is especially difficult for those who do not possess such experience.”



Cover of the future book and a photo of the meeting of Scientific Council headed by G I Budker included in one of the essays.

“When asked how I can characterize Andrei Mikhailovich with one word, I answer without doubt: ‘Creator!’ ...Some people have an analytical mind, others are ‘synthesizers’, ‘originators’, or, speaking in a high-flown manner, creators. The personality of Andrei Mikhailovich Budker belongs to the last. He would be bored listening to someone aimlessly — he used to introduce something of his own, not merely to criticize or ‘crush’ the claim, but to ‘turn it inside out’ and to immediately propose a better version.”

“When at the suggestion of Kurchatov we all got engaged in the problem of the controlled thermonuclear reaction, Andrei came with new ideas almost every morning, which we discussed....”

“I have always believed that when getting old a person becomes more experienced and cautious rather than wise. This cannot be said about Andrei — he became more and more wise and with time even resembled a biblical sage.”

“One day Andrei began his lecture with the words ‘Physics is such a beauty!’ And the beauty was well-disposed to him. He was an inborn Physicist, not experimentalist, not theoretician, but a physicist with a capital P.”

As G I Budker himself used to say, “there are plenty of initiators, but few finishers!”

The book is planned to appear at the end of 2018. We hope that this work about the outstanding physicist and exceptional person and creator Gersh Itskovich Budker will be valuable to those interested in the history of science and, in particular, physics, in examples of creativity and work for the benefit of contemporaries and descendants.