

Vladimir Aleksandrovich Ugarov (Obituary)

R. A. Aronov, T. N. Bolotnikova, B. M. Bolotovskii, V. L. Ginzburg, L. V. Logansen, and S. G. Suvorov

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Vladimir Aleksandrovich Ugarov Secretary of the Editorial Board of the Journal *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk*, candidate of physical-mathematical sciences, docent of the Chair of Theoretical Physics of the V. I. Lenin Moscow State Pedagogical Institute died suddenly at the age of fifty-five.

Those who worked alongside of Vladimir Aleksandrovich knew this outstanding man to be invariably cheerful and energetic. Only the early greying of his hair betrayed that not everything was easy or simple in his life. Vladimir Aleksandrovich always behaved as a man in enviable good health. Now we can only imagine what effort this cost him. Only after his death was it established that in recent years he suffered several severe heart attacks without becoming inactive.

V. A. Ugarov was born on January 10, 1922 in Moscow. In 1944 he graduated with distinction from the Physics Faculty of the Moscow State University and in 1947 he completed his graduate work specializing in theoretical physics, and in the same year defended his candidate's dissertation "On Layer Theory."

Vladimir Aleksandrovich was a highly educated theoretical physicist. In the late forties he published a series of papers on such novel at the time problems as collective interactions in plasma and electromagnetic radiation in accelerators. He returned to these problems also later in the mid-fifties. In the sixties Vladimir Aleksandrovich carried out a number of original investigations concerning the properties of coherent light radiation in cylindrical light guides but he did not publish them. The reason for this was his innate modesty and a deeply felt sense of responsibility towards science. He was excited by and interested in many problems of physics. For twenty years V. A. Ugarov was a constant and active participant in the weekly theoretical seminar of the Physics Institute of the Academy of Sciences.

V. A. Ugarov felt that to be an educator was his calling. Starting with 1962 he taught theoretical physics in the V. I. Lenin Moscow State Pedagogical Institute. Vladimir Aleksandrovich put his outstanding erudition and his heart into the courses given by him. Ugarov said that anyone could give a course on the theory of relativity in 40 hours, "But you just try to present it both rigorously and interestingly and in sufficient detail in 12 hours," he remarked. This characterizes his views as a pedagogue. In developing these views of his, V. A. Ugarov created and painstakingly worked out a number of original courses of lectures, and wrote books on the theory of relativity. His textbook "Spetsial'naya teoriya otноситel'nosti" (The Special Theory of Relativ-



VLADIMIR ALEKSANDROVICH UGAROV
(1922-1977)

ity) intended for pedagogic institutes became widely known and is used in instruction also in universities. The second edition of the textbook was published already after his death.

Vladimir Aleksandrovich actively publicized the achievements of physics. He devoted much effort to editing popular literature on physics. He edited several editions of "Zanimatel'naya fizika" (Entertaining Physics) by Ya. I. Perel'man. V. A. Ugarov carried out careful editorial work in order that the book should completely retain its initial originality and should acquire modern idiom. He was the compiler of a series of collections of articles "Shkol'nikam o sovremennoi fizike" (For school pupils concerning modern physics) in which were published popular articles by prominent Soviet scientists. Under his editorship was issued the last edition of the widely known textbook of I. E. Tamm "Osnovy teorii élektrichestva" (Fundamentals of the Theory of Electricity).

For over twenty years V. A. Ugarov worked on the editorial board of *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk* first as the editor then as a member of the editorial board of its secretary. He spared neither effort nor time for this work and the high level reputation of this journal is to a large extent his achievement.

V. A. Ugarov was given the responsibility of looking after the most important sections of *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk*—"Physics of our Days" and "From Current Literature" which he directed for over a decade. These sections immediately responded to all the significant achievements of the latest physics. It often happened that widespread interest and attention was attracted to particular new and important directions which remained unnoticed on being published in specialist journals after the appearance of a communication concerning them in these sections of *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk*.

Those who have been fortunate enough to attend the *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk* evening meetings organized by É. V. Shpol'skii and V. A. Ugarov at the Physics Faculty of Moscow State University will never forget

them. At these evenings leading Soviet scientists related to students those aspects of their own work and of modern science which appeared to them to be of greatest importance and greatest interest. Here one could clearly discern the principal aim of the activity of É. V. Shpol'skii and V. A. Ugarov in *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk* of publicizing the achievements of physics in the widest possible manner.

The time that has elapsed since the death of V. A. Ugarov has shown how serious was this loss for the members of faculty and for students of the Physics Faculty of the Moscow State Pedagogical Institute and also for the editorial board of *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk* and for all persons who knew him.

Translated by G. Volkoff