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22–24 апреля 2003 г. Москва. В ИИЕТ РАН прошла годовичная конференция института. Первое пленарное заседание конференции открыл директор ИИЕТ В. М. Орел, рассказавший об итогах деятельности института в 2002 г., после чего были прочитаны доклады: В. П. Савиных «225 лет геодезическому образованию в России», В. М. Тихомиров «К 100-летию со дня рождения А. Н. Колмогорова», С. С. Демидов «А. Н. Колмогоров как историк математики», Т. И. Юсупова «Социально-политические и научные факторы создания Монгольской комиссии АН СССР», О. С. Романова «Картографические результаты исследования Якутии в первой половине XVIII века (по материалам первых правительственных экспедиций)».

Далее работа переместилась в секции. Работали следующие секции: теоретико-методологических проблем истории естествознания, социологии науки и истории научной политики, проблем науковедения, истории социокультурных проблем науки и техники, истории теоретической биологии, истории химии, истории математики, истории физики, механики, астрономии, научных приборов и инструментов, истории наук о Земле, техники и технических наук, а также экологическая секция и секция «Архив науки и техники».

Завершилась конференция вторым пленарным заседанием, на котором были представлены следующие доклады: М. В. Мокрова «Традиции и новации устной истории науки», В. Н. Краснов «Мировой океан и проблема безопасности российского судоходства», Е. С. Левина «Организация исследований и производства отечественных антибиотиков в 1940–1950-х гг. Проблемы и их решение», О. А. Александровская «Путешествие длиною в жизнь: к выходу в свет кни-

ги «Естественнонаучное наследие декабриста П. И. Борисова»», А. Э. Каримов «Кадастровая картография XVIII – начала XX вв. как форма социального диалога», Г. М. Идлис, В. Н. Гутина «Новая гуманитарная и общенаучная дисциплина: концепции современного естествознания».

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29 апреля 2003 г. Москва. В Президиуме РАН под председательством акад. Н. П. Лаверова состоялось юбилейное заседание, приуроченное к 50-летию со дня открытия Дж. Уотсоном и Ф. Криком двойной спирали ДНК. После короткого вступительного слова председателя присутствующим была показана видеозапись обращения Дж. Уотсона, сделанная по случаю юбилея и адресованная российским ученым; вслед за этим с основным докладом, выступил Л. Л. Киселев (Институт молекулярной биологии им. В. А. Энгельгардта РАН), который подробно рассказал об истории открытия. После основного доклада выступили академики Г. П. Георгиев, С. И. Шестаков, Р. В. Петров, Е. Д. Свердлов, В. Т. Иванов, В. А. Кабанов, А. С. Спирин, Н. А. Платэ.

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29 апреля 2003 г. Москва. В Большом зале ДК МГУ состоялся вечер, приуроченный к 100-летию со дня рождения А. Н. Колмогорова, организованный Клубом ученых МГУ и Московским математическим обществом. На вечере со вступительным словом выступил ректор МГУ, академик В. А. Садовничий, после чего с воспоминаниями о А. Н. Колмогорове выступили его коллеги и были показаны фильмы об ученом. Завершился вечер выступлением пианистки М. Федоровой, которая исполнила несколько произведений Ф. Шопена. В фойе ДК была развернута выставка, посвященная А. Н. Колмогорову.

## ABSTRACTS

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of A.P. Aleksandrov

**Address by the USSR Academy President A.P. Aleksandrov at the Institute for Nuclear Research, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, 19 May 1978.** This previously unpublished text contains the minutes of a 1978 presentation by A. P. Aleksandrov and his subsequent discussion with Kiev colleagues on the problems of world energy resources and Soviet economic and scientific strategies. Some questions debated then bear importance even now. Physicists V. A. Sidorenko and V. V. Orlov, two leading experts on energy production and former collaborators of Aleksandrov, provide a commentary on the document.

**A. A. Sarkisov. Monument to un-sunken ships.** In 1976, the author of these recollections was the commander of the Sevastopol School of Naval Engineers and realized his long-held wish to commemorate the heroism of physicists during the war years. In 1941 a group of physicists from the Leningrad Physico-Technical Institute, working under the direction of A. P. Aleksandrov, developed a method for protecting naval ships from magnetic mines, with which the German army hoped to blockade Soviet ports. A monument devoted to this exploit was unveiled in front of the Sevastopol School of Naval Engineers on 11 June 1976. A. P. Aleksandrov and top commanders of the Soviet Navy attended this important event.

**E. B. Aleksandrov. Recollections about A. P. Aleksandrov (Uncle Klasson and Lenin; The Aleksandrov theater).** A. P. Aleksandrov's nephew and member of the Russian Academy of Sciences recalls some aspects of his uncle's private life. The first part introduces Robert Eduardovich Klasson, a relative of the Aleksandrov family and electrical engineer who played an important role in the electrification of Russia. The second part deals with Aleksandrov's theatrical hobbies, in particular one performance of the Leningrad period.

**I. P. Lebedev. The A. G. Merzhanov defence, or A. P. Aleksandrov against the KGB.** The name of academician A. G. Merzhanov became known in the 1970s in connection with the discovery of a new technology for producing solid solutions, the self-propagating high-temperature synthesis. This technology, which allowed the inexpensive synthesis of materials with specific properties, attracted interest from abroad and offers of foreign contracts. The security services, however, perceived business collaboration as a threat to state interests. Only intervention by A. P. Aleksandrov saved Merzhanov and his colleagues from repression.

### From the History of Science

**T. I. Malova. Instrumental studies of topographic relief and its representation on mid-19th century Russian maps.** Aleksei Pavlovich Bolotov (1803–1853), professor at the Military Academy, was one of the most important geodesists and cartographers in Russia. Bolotov developed his main ideas in the mid-1840s, yet during his lifetime he did not have a real opportunity to realize them in actual surveys due to the political situation at the Russian General Staff. His innovations came to be fully appreciated only thirty years later, when in the 1870s Russia reformed its system of military-topographical work. Bolotov's suggestions included measuring altitude during surveys, using the Gauss cartographic projection to represent Russia's territory on maps, instead of Bonne's projection, and improving the process of instrument production. He also designed a special system

of hatches (hachures) to represent topographic relief, which differed from the traditional Leman system. Bolotov educated many followers and can be regarded as the founder of the Russian national tradition in geodesy and cartography.

### **Methodological Problems in the History of Science**

- A. V. Postnikov. The historiography of the history of geography (materials for a new textbook).** The author deals with a history and modern state of studies on the history of geography in Western European, American and Russian literature. An influence of the philosophy of science (theory of scientific revolutions, for example) on the development of geography is shown as well as importance of some recent currents in geographical thought, such as radical geography and some post-modern influences. It is proved that a theoretical orientation notwithstanding, nowadays the majority of historians of geography is keen on looking for importance of ideological, psychological, sociological, cultural and other external factors for the development of geography. On the other hand, for the educational aims it is very essential to study an «internal» history of geography as a science and a field of human practices especially in regards to the development of ideas and methods of this science. Eurocentrism is pointed out as a real lacuna in the foreign historiography of geography.

### **Social History of Russian Science and Technology**

- I. A. Tiulina. Professor Vladimir Vasil'evich Golubev – the first dean of the Department of Mechanics and Mathematics at Moscow State University.** In 1933 Narkompros (the Commissariat of Enlightenment) restored the departmental structure in Soviet Universities. Moscow State University acquired six departments: mechanics and mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, soil science, and the workers' department. Correspondent member of the Academy of Sciences V. V. Golubev (1884–1954) became the dean of the mechanico-mathematical department. The paper describes Golubev's activities as a teacher and university administrator in building one of the world's most prestigious educational institutions in mathematics.

### **Publications**

- I. I. Mochalov. ...In forty two.** During the war year 1942 V. I. Vernadsky and his family lived in evacuation in the township of Borovoe, Kazakhstan. There he continued writing his major book on the concept of the biosphere. Archives have preserved a number of his letters, notes, diaries, and essays of the time, some of which are published here with historical commentary.

### **Short Communications**

- M. G. Dombinskaia. The role of engineering societies in the contemporary world.** Engineering societies collect, exchange, and disseminate engineering knowledge in society. Today 462 research organizations in 16 countries evaluate technology. Engineering societies play an important social role by helping to regulate and organize engineering activities.

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