

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR ALEKSEI NIKOLAEVICH KOST

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On October 18, 1995 Aleksei Nikolaevich Kost would have been 80 years old. Chemists throughout the world knew Kost as a distinguished organic chemist, a charming and kind person, exceptionally benevolent toward all people with whom he came into contact.

Aleksei Nikolaevich Kost graduated from the Chemical Faculty of Moscow State University in 1939 and then worked under the leadership of the leading teacher and scientist A. P. Terent'ev. Kost defended a candidate's thesis in 1946 and a doctoral thesis in 1958 and in 1958 became professor in the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Chemical Faculty of Moscow State University. From 1969 Aleksei Nikolaevich headed the Problem Laboratory of Nitrogen Bases that he established at the Chemical Faculty of Moscow State University.

His many-sided interests and profound erudition enabled Kost to make a considerable contribution to various regions of organic chemistry. He is known primarily as a synthetic chemist, who paid great attention to the creation of new methods for the designed synthesis of heteroaromatic compounds. He developed new methods for the synthesis of pyrroles, pyrazoles, benzimidazoles, benzothiazoles, indoles, pyridines, quinolines, isoquinolines, isoindoles, indolizines, benzofurans, phthalazines, azacinnolines, carbolins, benzodiazepines, and other condensed structures. Two unique chemical transformations discovered under Kost's leadership have been named after him — the cyclization of acid arylhydrazides to 2-aminoindoles (the Kost reaction) and the isomerization/recyclization of π -deficient systems to π -excessive systems under the influence of nucleophilic agents (the Kost–Sagitullin rearrangement). Kost published around 600 scientific papers and obtained more than 100 inventor's certificates. One of his papers was registered as a discovery.

Professor Kost was an outstanding teacher. About 60 candidate's theses were prepared and defended under his guidance. Among the former students and post-graduates of Kost more than 15 became doctors of sciences. Professor Kost actively assisted in the development of workers at the higher educational establishments — for more than 10 years he guided the scientific theses of a group of chemists at the Kaunass Medical Institute of Donetsk and Dnepropetrovsk universities. Strong

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scientific bonds were established with the chemists of Omsk, Novokuznetsk, Dushanbe, and Sumgait, where Professor Kost led thesis researches.

Kost was involved in a great amount of editorial activity. For several years he directed the chemical editorial office at the Council of Ministers of the USSR, edited numerous monographs by Russian and foreign authors, was a permanent member of the editorial councils of the Vysshaya Shkola, Khimiya, and Mir publishers, and was member of the editorial boards of the journals "Moscow University Bulletin" and "Chemistry in Schools."

Kost played an inestimable role (as deputy chief editor) in the establishment of our journal "The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds" and its transformation into a well-known world-wide periodical of organic chemistry. The regular publication of reviews in the journal and the attraction of a wide circle of leading foreign authors proved possible in these years on account of Kost, his initiative, his far-reaching horizons, and his scientific authority. In addition, he regularly afforded scientific and procedural assistance to new authors. The fact that "The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds" still exists to this day and is highly regarded throughout the world is due not only to the devotion and enthusiasm of the editorial staff and the publisher but also to the dynamic motivation bequeathed by Kost.

The corn sown by Kost has given bounteous seedlings. This is demonstrated primarily by the fact that his students in Russia and in other countries continue to work fruitfully in the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds, developing new directions and realizing their own ideas and the ideas of Kost. This is evidenced by the establishment of a regular scientific colloquium* in memory of Aleksei Nikolaevich Kost at Chernogolovka in the Moskovsk region on October 18, 1995.

*See the information at the end of this issue