

ANNIVERSARIES AND DATES



MIKHAIL GRIGOR'EVICH VORONKOV
(85TH BIRTHDAY)

December 6, 2006 marks the 85th birthday of an eminent scientist in the field of the chemistry of silicon and heterocyclic compounds and particularly those containing silicon, germanium, sulfur, nitrogen, and certain metals as heteroatoms. In addition to his fundamental investigations M. G. Voronkov has paid special attention to the application of the results of his researches in various regions of industry, agriculture, and medicine.

M. G. Voronkov is an Full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, foreign member of the Academy of Sciences of Latvia, member of the Asiatic-Pacific Academy of Materials, corresponding member of the Braunschweig Scientific Society (Germany), honorary member of the Florida Center of Heterocyclic Compounds (USA), honorary doctor of Gdansk Technical University (Poland), and honorary professor of the Ulan-Bator University (Mongolia), scientific advisor of the Dzhilin Chemical Corporation (Chinese People's Republic), and the Halonjan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (Chinese People's Republic).

Information about him was published in the book "Leading Scientists of the World – 2006," published by the International Biographical Centre (Cambridge, England). In the same year he became honorary member of the American Biographical Institute Scientific Research College of Advisors (Raleigh, USA). M. G. Voronkov is a winner of State Prizes of Russia and Ukraine and also prizes of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the A. N. Nesmeyanov prize of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 2006 for achievements in the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds he was awarded the A. N. Kost medal, instituted by the Russian Chemical Society, Moscow State University, and the international Interbioscreen Foundation.

During 1961-1970 he headed the Laboratory of Organoelement Compounds at the Institute of Organic Synthesis, Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR. Here he began his systematic investigations in the chemistry of silatranes, germatranes, and metallatranes, which have continued actively to the present day. The reaction of arylhaloalkanes with elemental sulfur, leading to various aromatic sulfur heterocycles and called the M. G. Voronkov reaction, was discovered at the same laboratory.

Mikhail Grigor'evich Voronkov was one of the organizers and deputy editor (to 1973) of journal "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds," of which he is a member of the editorial to the present day. He is on the editorial boards of three international journals (USA) and of the Russian "Journal of General Chemistry."

Over the 60 years or more of his scientific activity Voronkov has published 3200 scientific papers, 150 chapters in books and reviews, 300 author's certificates of inventions, and 98 patents. He is author of 52 monographs, a series of which were published in the USA, England, Germany, Japan, Rumania, Israel, and Poland. According to Internet data, in citations in the World literature Voronkov occupies first place among all Russian chemists and in productivity third place among all World scientists.*

Among the graduates of Voronkov's school there are 30 doctors and 132 candidates of sciences.

Twenty years ago Voronkov completely lost his sight. This did not prevent him from heroically continuing his scientific and managerial activity.

From 1970 to 1994 Mikhail Grigor'evich headed the Irkutsk Institute of Organic Chemistry, Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. At the present time he is adviser of the Russian Academy of Sciences and manages a large laboratory at the same institute, which is now called the A. E. Favorsky Institute of Chemistry, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Voronkov's chronological birthday age does not correspond to his biological age. As before, he is distinguished by his enormous capacity for work, surprising abundance of scientific ideas, the breadth of his scientific interests, his friendly and attentive attitude toward collaborators and colleagues, and his inexhaustible humor.

The editorial board and staff sincerely congratulate one of the founders of "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds" and constant member of the editorial board Mikhail Grigor'evich Voronkov on his grand birthday.

We wish him robust health, great successes, happiness, and joy. We look forward to further fruitful collaboration.

* A list of the main publications of M. G. Voronkov up to 2001 was published in *Khim. Geterotsykl. Soedin.*, No. 1, 8-11 (2002).