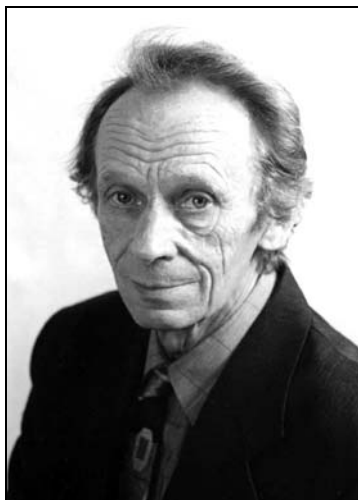


ANNIVERSARIES AND DATES



**IN MEMORY OF
ANATOLII ALEKSEEVICH POTEKHIN
(May 12, 1938 - March 27, 2007)**

This issue of *Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds* is devoted to the glowing memory of Anatolii Alekseevich Potekhin, doctor of chemical sciences, professor, head of the Department of Organic Chemistry in the Chemical Faculty of St. Petersburg State University, and member of the editorial team of the journal *Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds*. This is a jubilee number since on May 12 of this year A. A. Potekhin would have reached the age of 70 years. Unfortunately, however, it is also a memorial number because scarcely a year ago his life was interrupted by serious illness.

For more than half a century A. A. Potekhin was associated with St. Petersburg (Leningrad) University, with the Department of Organic Chemistry, where he passed through all levels from student to professor heading the department. Anatolii Alekseevich was distinguished by a broad range of scientific interests, which is illustrated well by the list of his principal scientific papers presented below. However, the core of his scientific activity in all these years was the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds, where special attention was paid to the study of ring-chain tautomerism and the relationships governing the reversible and irreversible cyclization of functionally substituted hydrazines, hydrazides, and hydrazones. An integral part of these investigations comprised work on the synthesis, stereochemistry, and reactivity of saturated polynitrogen heterocycles. A logical extension of the research area was the development of new approaches to the synthesis of nonaromatic nitrogen- and sulfur-containing heterocyclic compounds, and in the final years a study of aromatic heterocycles was started under the guidance of A. A. Potekhin.

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Much of Anatolii Alekseevich's energy and time was devoted to his publishing and editorial activity. He was author of the monograph entitled "The Chemistry of the Organic Derivatives of Hydrazine". The reference book "Properties of Organic Compounds" popular among organic chemists was published under his editorship. He was also chief editor of the periodical collection "Contemporary Problems of Organic Chemistry" and translation editor or translator of many books and, in particular, the well-known monograph by A. Hajos "Complex Hydrides in Organic Chemistry".

A. A. Potekhin made an invaluable contribution to the establishment and development of the journal "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds", in the editorial team of which he worked from the first issue of the journal to the last days of his life. For about two decades he largely determined the "strategy and policy" of scientific editing of the papers, and he held regular meetings with the science editors, thereby achieving a high-grade publication. All will remember his challenging nature, perfectly linked to intelligence and an intense feeling of sensitivity, his wide-reaching scientific outlook, and his enormous capacity for work.

A. A. Potekhin's teaching activity merits special mention. In many decades of teaching he communicated his knowledge to hundreds of university students and trained tens of highly qualified chemists, many of whom became candidates and doctors of science and are now working throughout Russia and beyond its borders. He is remembered with gratitude by former pupils, participants in the chemistry Olympiad, in the organization of which Anatolii Alekseevich was engaged for many years.

This memorial issue contains the most recent articles of Anatolii Alekseevich himself and papers by his friends and colleagues, his collaborators, students, and successors.*

A LIST OF MAJOR PUBLICATIONS BY PROFESSOR ANATOLII ALEKSEEVICH POTEKHIN

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*A review and several papers dedicated to the memory of A. A. Potekhin will be published in the next issues of the journal.

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