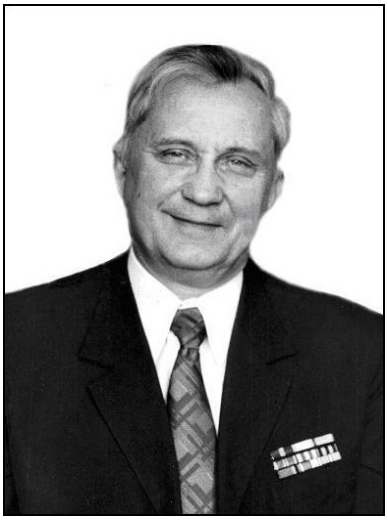

95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF PROFESSOR ALEXEY NIKOLAEVICH KOST

More than 30 years ago in the 65th year of his life Professor of M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University Alexey Nikolaevich Kost, Honored science and technology worker of the RSFSR, passed away. In him the scientific community of organic chemists lost an outstanding scientist, an eminent specialist in the field of the chemistry of nitrogen-containing compounds. Happy memories about this extraordinary person are retained by all who knew him. We remember his wide erudition, his exceptional benevolence in his contacts with colleagues, his active involvement in the fate of the many young chemists he encountered on his way.

Alexey Nikolaevich Kost graduated from Moscow State University in 1939 and then worked under the management of the outstanding teacher and scientist A. P. Terent'ev. His scientific activity was interrupted by World War II – from July 1941 to the end of 1945 he served in the army. In 1946 he defended a candidate's thesis on "Acrylonitriles as the starting material for the synthesis of tetrahydropyridines and pyrazolines" and in 1956 a doctoral thesis on "Investigations in the region of the synthesis of tetrahydropyridines and pyrazolines". In 1958 he became professor in the Organic Chemistry Department of the Faculty of Chemical of Moscow State University.

From 1969 Alexey Nikolaevich was head of the Problem Laboratory of Chemistry and Biological Action of Nitrogen Bases that he set up in the Organic Chemistry Department.

The scientific interests of Alexey Nikolaevich were very extensive. They included primarily the chemistry of organic derivatives of amines and hydrazines, their cyclic analogs, and the functional derivatives of indole and pyridine. It is the work in the region of these heterocycles that made the most substantial contribution to the development of the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds. Two unique chemical transformations discovered under his leadership – the cyclization of acid arylhydrazones to 2-aminoindoles (the Kost reaction, 1971) and the isomerization recyclization of π-deficient systems to π-excessive systems by the action of nucleophilic

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agents (the Kost–Sagitullin rearrangement, 1975) – were named after A. N. Kost. He was author of about 600 scientific papers and received more than 100 author's certificates, and one of the papers was registered as a discovery (1978). A. N. Kost tried to find a practical application for most of his scientific developments. This was particularly successful in the creation of a series of repellents, anticorrosion materials, and the excellent antihistamine drug Dimebon.

Almost from the foundation of our journal "Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds" Alexey Nikolaevich was deputy chief editor, playing a key role in the establishment of its subject matter, scientific standards, and international prestige – the latter was promoted in no small degree by A. N. Kost's extensive contacts in the scientific world. However, Alexey Nikolaevich's services to the education and training of a whole galaxy of young editors and authors are inestimable.

The scientific traditions of the A. N. Kost school and his attitude towards colleagues are held sacred by his students (60 candidates and 15 doctors of chemical sciences) and his students' students ("scientific grandsons and great grandsons") working in many scientific centers in Russia and abroad. Every five years the students and fellow heterocyclic chemists hold a scientific conference dedicated to the memory of this unforgettable person on his birthday – October 18.

A bibliography of the most important works of A. N. Kost was published in *Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds*, No. 9 (1980).

G. A. Golubeva and L. A. Sviridova

In recognition of the services and outstanding contribution of A. N. Kost to the development of research in the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds in 2005 the International Scientific Partnership Foundation, M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, and the D. I. Mendeleev Russian Chemical Society established medals "In Memory of A. N. Kost."

All the papers in this issue of the journal are dedicated to the happy memory of A. N. Kost.