

OBITUARY

REMINISCENCES OF YURII TIMOFEEVICH STRUCHKOV

Yurii Timofeevich Struchkov died in his 70th year on August 16, 1995. He was one of the greatest Russian scientists in the field of the structural chemistry of organic compounds, an outstanding crystallographer, Vice-President of the International Union of Crystallography, Director of the Center for X-Ray Structural Investigations of the Division of General and Technical Chemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Head of the Laboratory for X-Ray Structural Investigations of the Institute of Heteroorganic Compounds, and Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Yu. T. Struchkov considered his main scientific task to be the all-sided introduction of the x-ray structural method for solving the most urgent chemical problems — from determining the structural formulas, metrics, and chirality of complex and nonclassical molecules to the elucidation of the interrelationship of the structures of molecules and crystals and their physical properties, bioactivity, and reactivity. And today, in summing up Yurii Timofeevich's life and his total untiring creative labor, it is possible to state with confidence that he was brilliantly equal to this task, having in recent years headed one of the most productive centers for the x-ray structural study of organic compounds in the world.

Yu. T. Struchkov was one of the acknowledged world authorities in questions connected with the structures of the most diverse organic, coordination, heteroorganic and organometallic compounds in the solid phase. He obtained extremely important results on the structures of a wide range of materials, from organic semiconductors to polynuclear metal complexes, and from the simplest aromatic derivatives to peculiar formations based on polyorganometallosiloxanates.

Yu. T. Struchkov always devoted very serious attention also to questions of the application of the x-ray structural method to biologically active and natural compounds. He investigated in detail and established important conformational laws in a large group of natural compounds comprising alkaloids and sesquiterpene lactones isolated from the flora of Central Asia, obtained interesting results on the connection between the structure and activity of steroid hormones, and made systematic structural investigations of complexes with bioligands. He was one of the first native "structurists," recognizing the enormous importance of the effects of anomalous scattering for determining the absolute configurations of organic compounds, including natural or modified natural substances. It was on his initiative that the first domestic program designed for the best possible calculation of the effects of anomalous scattering and their use for the reliable determination of absolute configurations was written and was used successfully for many years.

Yurii Timofeevich actively participated in the editorial board of our journal and not infrequently published his own investigations in it. He was always an exceptionally energetic person bursting with scientific and organizational ideas and full of resolve for putting them into practice. It is difficult to come to terms with his untimely departure.

The editorial board of the journal, editorial colleagues, authors and readers will always retain a bright memory of Yurii Timofeevich Struchkov, a great scientist and a man close to us all.