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## Twenty Fourth Kargin's Readings

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## Twenty Fourth Kargin's Readings

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The regular Kargin's Readings were held on January 24, 1994 in the Chemistry Department of Moscow State University. This year's readings marked the 24th anniversary of the death of Professor Valentin A. Kargin, the founder of polymer science in our country, the Head of the Scientific Council on Macromolecules of the USSR Academy of Sciences (1948–1960), and the Head of the Chair of Macromolecules of the Moscow State University. Professor Kargin founded the great school of experts in the area of physics and chemistry of polymers. He was very active in the science and his contribution mainly concerned the structural approach to synthesis, technology, and the physical and chemical properties of polymers. Presently, Russian and foreign colleagues and disciples of Professor Kargin are preparing a memorial book devoted to this outstanding scientist.

The 1994 meeting gathered about 100 scientists from 15 research centers. Four plenary lectures were given. Three of them dealt with the mechanisms of chemical reactions of polymerization, whereas one concerned structural transition in polymers.

The opening remarks were made by Professor Nikolai A. Plate, the Director of the Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis of The Russian Academy of Sciences, who emphasized the contribution of Professor Kargin in the development of polymer science. The first lecture was given by Professor Valentin B. Golubev, the Head of Laboratory of the Chair of Macromolecules of the Moscow State University. The speaker discussed the mechanisms of alternating copolymerization. He emphasized that these polymers were discovered about 100 years ago by the Russian Professor Vasilii Solomin, who synthesized polymers later called polysulfones. The chemical nature of these processes was discovered in 1934 by the Nobel Prize winning German scientist, Herman Staudinger. The speaker showed that the method of spin trap could be successfully applied for better understanding of the mechanisms of alternating copolymerization. The contribution of the staffs of the Chair of Macromolecules of the Moscow State University (V. A. Kargin, V. A. Kabanov and V. P. Zubov) was also emphasized in this lecture.

The next lecture, entitled "Phase Transition and Structural Formation in the System of Poly(acrylonitrile-polypropylene-carbonate)," was given by Professor

Vasilii I. Guerasimov, the head of another laboratory of the same chair. He focused on the new ways for the development of novel high-oriented molecular systems.

The third lecture was presented by Professor Eugenii Sh. Finkelshtein, the Head of Laboratory of the Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis, who considered the reactions of metasythesis to be the way for the synthesis of new polymer structures. He showed the possibility of the creation of new unusual olefin structures that could be the basis for obtaining several polymers.

The last communication, entitled "The Regulation of Homo- and Copolymerization of the vinyl and some other monomers by the catalytic amount of elemento-organic compounds," was given by Professor Dmitrii F. Grishin (Chemistry Department of the University of Nizhnii Novgorod).

The last Kargin's Readings showed that ideas of Professor Kargin still stimulate the development of polymers science and lead to the successful results. In the meantime, however, significantly fewer scientists participated in this meeting in comparison with previous readings. Mostly, only scientists from Moscow could come attend the readings this year. This has been a result of price increases of 150 percent for internal travel since the beginning of 1994, compared with the salaries of Russian professors remaining 5 times less than that of an average worker.