

In memoriam
85th anniversary of Grigory Samsonov
(1918–1975)[☆]



The year 2003 marked the 85th anniversary of the birth of Professor Grigory V. Samsonov, an outstanding scientist in the field of materials science. In the last years of his life he was the head of the Materials Science Department at the Institute of Materials Science Problems, Ukraine.

Professor Samsonov was widely known among the world materials science community as an expert in the field of refractory compounds. Samsonov's more than 500 journal papers and 30 monographs were devoted to almost all classes of refractory compounds: borides, carbides, nitrides, silicides, phosphides, aluminides, etc. His interest was always in the correlation between crystal structure, its stability, and compound properties. The investigation of these correlations led to the synthesis of many new compounds, named ever since "samsonides."

Professor Samsonov was not only a fruitful researcher but also an outstanding lecturer and organizer of scientific activity. His bright personality and wide scientific interests attracted his young colleagues and encouraged them to study new systems and create new directions in material science.

With the energetic help of Professor Samsonov, several new scientific groups and centers were organized in different cities of the former Soviet Union—in Kiev, Moscow, Saint-Petersburg, Riga, etc. He initiated investigations on refractory compounds in Novosibirsk. The important basic and applied results on the properties of aluminides, borides, germanides, magnides, and nitrides were obtained in the metallothermic laboratory created in this city. These investigations included studies on aluminium borides, boron interaction mechanisms with transition metals, plasma–chemical syntheses of ultradispersed boride powders, coatings on the basis of cubic boron nitride under "mild" conditions, precipitation of nitride and boron carbonitride films from vapour of volatile boron compounds, gas-phase deposition of pyrolytic nitride or boron by borason pyrolysis with simultaneous production of articles, and phase equilibrium in double alkaline–borate systems.

The international community of scientists has always respected Samsonov's endeavours. His monographs are used in all material science laboratories all over the world. We will always keep kind memories of Professor Samsonov in our hearts.

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