

**PELAGEYA YAKOVLEVNA KOCHINA (1899–1999)†**

Pelageya Yakovlevna Kochina died on the 3rd of July 1999 aged 100.

A remarkable person, an outstanding scientist and teacher, and a great scholar of twentieth century mechanics has passed away. The highest achievements in the mathematical theory of seepage and the very recognition of it as a rightful branch of hydrodynamics are associated with her name. For a period lasting half a century, Kochina was a world authority in the field of seepage theory.

Kochina did not confine herself to purely scientific activities. She actively participated in the setting up of the Siberian Scientific Centre, creating a new school of specialists in seepage theory and the problems of irrigation. She also contributed to the organization of the teaching of mechanics at Novosibirsk University. Under her chairmanship, the Commission, which was later reorganized into the Commission for the Use and Protection of the Water Resources of Siberia, worked on the problem of the irrigation and watering of the Kulundinskaya steppe.

On her return from Siberia in 1970, she became head of the Division of Mathematical Methods in Mechanics at the Institute of Problems in Mechanics of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, where a seminar on seepage theory was developed under her guidance. Up to the final days of her life, she actively continued to carry out scientific research, showing a lively interest in new results and remaining a supreme authority in scientific discussions.

For many years, she was a member of the Editorial Board of the journals *Applied Mathematics and Mechanics* and *Fluid Mechanics*. Her benevolent authority was very conducive to the maintenance of the high scientific standards of our journals.

Kochina was particularly interested in the history of science. She wrote bibliographies of N. Ye. Kochin, A. A. Fridman, S. V. Kovalevskaya, K. Weierstrass and G. Mittag-Leoffler and a remarkable book of memoirs, illustrated with her own drawings.

Kochina was universally respected and honoured, receiving the gold medal of a Hero of Socialist Labour, the M. V. Keldysh gold medal and many other medals and orders.

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Her loss is irreplaceable but the memory of her, the example of her devoted service to science and her radiant appearance will remain in our hearts.

Translated by E.L.S.