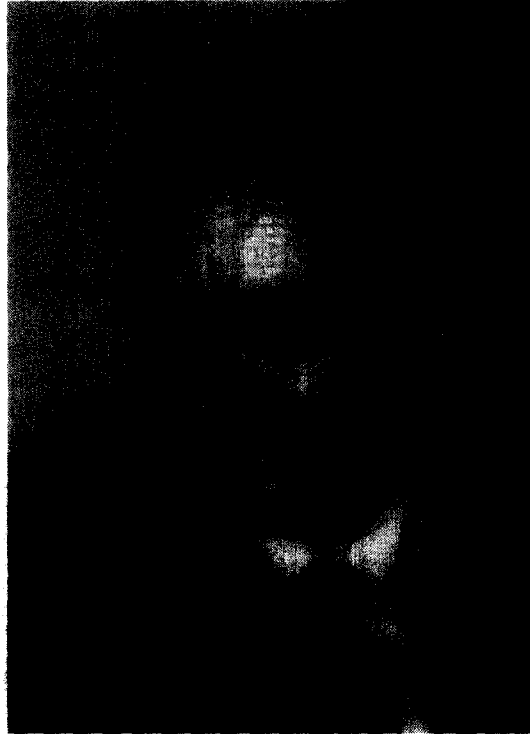




**VICTOR PAVLOVICH KOROBAINIKOV†**  
**(15.03.1929–06.02.2003)**



The great Russian applied mathematician, senior research fellow of the Institute of Automated Design of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Physics and Mathematics, Professor, and corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Viktor Pavlovich Korobeinikov, died suddenly on 6 February 2003.

Korobeinikov was born in the village of Kontuzl in the Krasnoborsk region of the Tatar ASSR. In spite of the difficulties of wartime, he studied well as a boy, and in 1947, at the end of his secondary schooling, he entered the Mechanics and Mathematics Faculty of Kazan State University. The graduate student caught the eye of Doctor of Physics and Mathematics S. M. Nikol'skii, who had come to Kazan on the instructions of the management of the V. A. Steklov Institute of Mathematics of the USSR Academy of Sciences to seek out talented young specialists for post-graduate studies. Sedov became Korobeinikov's scientific supervisor, and he played a key role in the making of Korobeinikov as a scientist and a man. Their joint work continued after Korobeinikov had defended his Master's dissertation "An investigation of certain problems of the unsteady one-dimensional motions of a gas" in 1956. They remained companions right up to Sedov's death in 1999.

After a 3-year post-graduate course, Korobeinikov became a research fellow in the Department of Mechanics of the V. A. Steklov Institute of Mathematics, where he worked for over 30 years. Here he successfully continued and developed the themes of his supervisor and obtained a number of important results in the field of explosion theory which were included in his doctoral dissertation "Problems of the theory of localized explosion in gases", which he defended in 1969, and in his monograph "Problems of the Theory of Localized Explosion in Gases", first published in 1973 in *Proceedings of the V. A. Steklov Institute of Mathematics*. It can be stated without exaggeration that this has become the standard work for specialists in Russia and abroad.

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The great contribution he made to the development of explosion theory was recognized in 1975 with a USSR State Prize in the field of science and engineering.

Korobeinikov never sat on his laurels and was constantly broadening the range of his research. He made a significant contribution to the development of theoretical models and methods for solving problems of the mechanics of single-phase and multiphase media, the physics of explosions, astrophysics, magnets hydrodynamics, low-density plasma physics, the theory of detonation, the theory of the entry of large celestial bodies into the atmosphere of planets, the problem of the interaction of laser radiation with matter, the theory of combustion, and the mathematical modelling of catastrophic phenomena in nature and in engineering. He solved a number of applied problems that helped strengthen the defence capacity of his country. He was the author of over 200 scientific papers, including four monographs.

He paid particular attention to the professional training of the young. From 1965 until the last years of his life, he taught at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. Many graduates of the institute remember with gratitude not only his fascinating lectures and seminars but also his emotional warmth, his willingness to give of himself, and his desire to help in studies and everyday matters, all specific traits of his character. Those attending his special courses and seminars, drawn in by his enthusiasm and devotion to science, continued to work with him and, under his supervision, defended diploma projects and dissertations. His many students and successors, scattered among various cities and countries, will, with gratitude, use both the scientific knowledge he imparted and the life experience that was generously shared by this wise man.

Fellow scientists rated his professional qualities, erudition, decency, and huge organization abilities very highly. Key posts in scientific research and government organization were entrusted to him. For a number of years he worked in the Expert Council of the Higher Certifying Commission, and was Scientific Secretary of the Mathematics and Mechanics Section of the Lenin and State Prize Committee in the Council of Ministers of the USSR. In 1987 he moved to Vladivostok, where he initially headed the Department of Mathematical Methods of Information Science at the Computer Centre of the Far-Eastern Centre of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and then became Director of the Institute of Applied Mathematics of the Far-Eastern Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences which was founded as a result of his efforts. He played an important role in the organization at the Institute of post-graduate courses in six specialities, and also of basic mathematics departments at the Far-Eastern State University. In 1988, He was elected a Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He became Deputy Chairman of the Commission for the Application of High-Performance Computers in Scientific and Technical Calculations at the Coordination Committee on Computer Technology of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Chairman of the Mathematical Modelling Scientific Council of the Far-Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and headed the Association of Modelling and Forecasting of Catastrophes. For many years he was a member of the Praesidium of the All-Union, and then the Russian, National Committee on Theoretical and Applied Mechanics and a member of the Office of the Council on Combustion and Explosion at the Praesidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He constantly carried out a great deal of work on propagating scientific knowledge in the field of information science and applied mathematics.

He spent considerable time and effort on setting up international scientific ties. Particularly close and fruitful contacts were established with scientists in Poland, the United States, and Japan. For his great achievements in investigating explosions of dust and gas mixtures, he was awarded the prestigious Waclaw Cybulski Medal.

He was a man of unusually magnetic personality owing to his intelligence, responsiveness, humility, and charm.

The blessed memory of Viktor Pavlovich Korobeinikov as a true scientist and remarkable man, whose entire life was an example of dedicated service to science, will remain in our hearts for ever.

*Translated by P.S.C.*