

OBITUARY

LEV GERASIMOVICH LOITSYANSKII

On November 5, 1991 the eminent scholar and scientific administrator, one of the creators of hydrodynamics studies in his country, Doctor of Physicomathematical Sciences, professor, Academician of the International Astronautics Academy, dedicated worker for science and technology of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic, State Prize laureate Lev Gerasimovich Loitsyanskii passed away.

Loitsyanskii's name is closely related to the establishment of the study of mechanics, and especially, aerodynamics in Russia. Even in the early days of his scientific labors he made a significant contribution to the theory of mechanisms, navigational devices, bearings, and suspensions, and to the theory of oscillations of an undeformable solid body. In this period together with A. I. Lur'e he published the following monographs: the three-volume Theoretical Mechanics (1931), the two-volume Course in Theoretical Mechanics (1938), which has passed through more than ten editions, been awarded domestic and foreign prizes, and been translated into many languages.

In 1930 Loitsyanskii was chosen as a professor of the Leningrad Polytechnic Institute, and in 1934 he organized the faculty of hydroaerodynamics and its research laboratory, well supplied with aerodynamic tubes, hydrochannels, and unique large scale test stands for modeling energy and other characteristics of hydroturbines. From that time until the end of his days Loitsyanskii's life was bound to his beloved creation - the faculty and the laboratory. In 1940 his monograph Boundary Layer Aerodynamics appeared and achieved world-wide fame, placing the young scholar in the ranks of such leading figures in hydrodynamics as Karman and Prandtl, who maintained a strong friendship and creative cooperation with him for all their long days.

The faculty headed by Loitsyanskii for more than half a century provided the country with a large number of highly qualified specialists in the fields of aerospace technology, energy generation equipment, ship building, and hydrotechnology. Among Loitsyanskii's students are many Doctors of Science, Academicians and Corresponding Members of the Union and Republican Academies, whose names are famous not only in our country, but abroad as well. A brilliant product of his creative achievements was the 1950 fundamental monograph Liquid and Gas Mechanics. From that time the work has several times been revised and republished in the USSR, USA, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. This textbook for physics and mechanics students at university and technical school level is a collection of knowledge from all branches of classical and modern hydroaerodynamics, including the rheology of complex liquids. Loitsyanskii's Laminar Boundary Layer, published in 1962, won great popularity among both domestic and foreign scholars.

Loitsyanskii was widely known not only for his research and teaching activity, but as an eminent scientific administrator and active member of society. For quite some time he was a deputy chairman of the Presidium of the National Committee of the USSR of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, deputy chairman of the Scientific Soviet on Liquid and Gas Mechanics Problems in the Mechanics and Control Problems branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, head of the physical-mathematical sciences section of the editorial-publishing soviet of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, an active member of Leningrad Polytechnic and Academy Physicotechnical Institute of Soviets, and a member of the editorial boards of many domestic and foreign journals.

Loitsyanskii's efforts for his country were rewarded by many high level government awards.

His wide-ranging, truly encyclopedic works rightfully place him in the first rank of world-wide aerohydrodynamicists.

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The bright memory of Lev Gerasimovich, the mighty scholar, highly talented, charming, and sympathetic person, will remain forever in the hearts of all who knew and worked with him.

The editorial board