



The study of phase equilibria is conducted on a global basis, as the list of articles in this or any previous edition of the journal will show. Researchers from Russia and other nations of the former USSR have been especially active, particularly in higher-temperature systems. The lists of references for many of the phase diagrams reviewed in these pages highlight the importance of Russian and Soviet research.

Ordinarily, research from Russia and the USSR would be difficult to obtain and to read, given the Cyrillic alphabet and lack of marketing on behalf of Soviet serials. However, several unusual journals have made it easier for us to obtain and make use of these results. You've seen the abbreviations: *Russ. J. Phys. Chem.* (*Russian Journal of Physical Chemistry*), *J. Appl. Chem. USSR* (*Journal of Applied Chemistry of the USSR*), *Inorg. Mater.* (*Inorganic Materials*), and numerous others. These are translation journals, cover-to-cover translations of Russian/Soviet scientific journals that make otherwise obscure work easier to read and use. There are

hundreds of them, covering every known field of science.

Many of the translations journals that are so useful to us were introduced by a New York publishing firm known as the Consultants Bureau. The Consultants Bureau was born in 1946, and began publishing its first translation journal, *J. Gen. Chem. USSR* (*Journal of General Chemistry of the USSR*, a translation of *Zhurnal Obshchei Khimii*) in 1949. One eventually grew into more than 100, along with 75 English-language titles and hundreds of monographs. The Consultants Bureau was eventually renamed Plenum Publishing Corporation, and is now part of Springer-Verlag. It still publishes *J. Gen. Chem. USSR*.

The founder of Consultants Bureau was a U.S. Army veteran named Earl Coleman. Coleman had no scientific background (he was a writer and poet) and no ability as a translator, but he saw an opportunity to make the world a little bit smaller and make a profit doing it. Scientific translation had previously been done on a custom basis, with customers paying for the specific translation of a single article. Coleman invented the concept of a translation journal produced for a general audience, and then developed the business model necessary to make it work. This meant hiring the right translators, finding ways to market his product, and working with American professional societies to begin producing new translation journals. It wasn't easy building a business that depended on cooperation with Soviet authorities, particularly during the Cold War. Soviet scientific organizations had little experience with intellectual property, and explaining the importance of exclusive rights took some doing.

Earl Coleman did more during his career than founding Consultants Bureau. He was also the founder of Da Capo Press, which specializes in reprints and original photography collections and other works related to the arts. He also continued writing short stories and poetry, and was nominated for awards for his writing.

Earl Coleman died last October 12 of a pulmonary embolism at the age of 93. He never published a single scientific article, and might not have known what a phase diagram is, but his enterprise and vision made a wealth of Soviet science available to the world. The pages of this journal have benefitted on a regular basis from his efforts, and his name deserves to be remembered.

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