

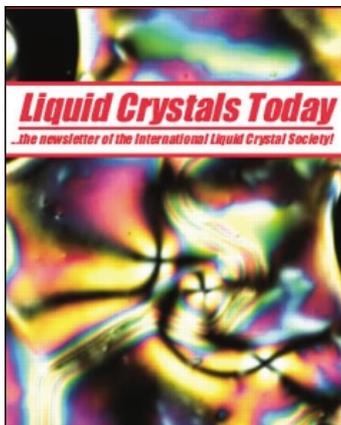
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Professor Victor Titov, 1935–1996

Victor Titov, former director of the Organic Intermediates and Dyes Institute and of the Institute of Graphic Art in Moscow, Russia was killed on 25 October 1996.

Professor Titov was born in the village Usvyaty, Pskov Region on 25 August 1935. In 1957 he graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry in Moscow State University. As a talented young PhD specialist in 1963 he came to Guinea, where he spent three years as Head of the Chemical Laboratory and Professor of Chemistry in Conakry Polytechnical Institute. In 1966 Titov returned to Russia and became Head of Division in the Organic Intermediates and Dyes Institute (NIOPIK). It was the time that Fine Chemistry for Electronics was growing, so it was not surprising, at the beginning of the 70s that Victor Titov together with his colleague Professor Lev Blinov recognized Liquid Crystals (LCs) as one of the most promising materials for electronic displays. The team which Titov and Blinov got together in NIOPIK was highly qualified and ambitious, thus allowing immediate progress to be made in the new field. Starting with MBBA and PAA, NIOPIK researchers made successful mixtures for dynamic scattering, and the first electrically controlled birefringence (ECB) and twisted nematic (TN) LC display materials. The energy of Professor Titov cannot be overestimated, he was able to carry out at the same time research and development in the chemistry and physical chemistry of new chemical compounds to be applied as LCs, photoresists, pyro and piezoelectrics and dichroic dyes. Many leading researchers in NIOPIK chemistry had the honour to defend their PhD degree under Titov's supervision and on the basis of Titov's ideas. In 1978 Victor Titov presented the first results devoted to a new important chemical class of



nematic LC compounds: pyridine derivatives. Later together with Professor A. Ivashchenko new dichroic dyes both with positive and negative dichroism were developed, covering the full spectral range of visible light. Under his leadership, new improved compounds were synthesized to be used for vacuum and electron photoresist technology. Victor Titov supervised fifteen PhD specialists, and most of them continue to work in the field of chemistry and physical chemistry.

Professor Titov was not only an outstanding scientist, he was well known as a good organizer. In 1981 he became the General Director of NIOPIK. At that time NIOPIK became a well known leader in chemical R&D for electronics in the former USSR and organized a successful and competitive production of LC and photoresist materials for the electronic industry. The Soviet Government highly rated these achievements, and Professor Titov was awarded two top prizes of Science and Technology: the State Prize in 1983 and the Prize of the USSR Counsel of Ministers in 1986. Professor Titov was elected as a member of two Russian Academies: the Academy of Engineering Sciences and the Academy of Information Technologies.

The Liquid Crystal Community of both Russia and CIS countries express their utmost gratitude to Professor Titov for his creation of the Liquid Crystal Society 'Sodruzhestvo' of Russia and CIS countries (see *Liquid Crystals Today*, 5 (3), 1995). This year the Russian LC Society organized by Titov was accepted as a collective member of the International LC Society. During the period of 'perestroika' and following the disappearance of the Soviet Union from the political map, the Liquid Crystal Society headed by Victor Titov enabled LC specialists in Russia and CIS to get together, exchange new ideas, discuss the new trends of developments, and provide support for young researchers and students. Notwithstanding the new position of Professor Titov as a Director of the Institute of Polygraphy (Graphic Art) since 1991, he spared no effort in supporting the LC community, publishing the Bulletin of Society, holding regular sessions of Community and supporting LC researchers both in Russia and CIS. The last session, which was held in the Institute of Polygraphy on 24–25 October 1996, unanimously confirmed that the activity of Victor Titov was highly appreciated and supported by the LC researchers both in Russia and CIS. He was again elected as a President of the Society.

We cannot believe that Victor Titov is no longer with us. We express our sincere condolences to his family and friends both in Russia and all over the world. We will always remember his generous help, his great support, his heartfelt and friendly attitude, which he showed to all the people who knew him and met him. Our LC Society decided that Professor Titov will remain its Honourable President forever.

**Liquid Crystal Society
'Sodruzhestvo'**