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## Liquid Crystals

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## Obituary

### Professor Victor Vasil'evich Titov (1935–1996)



Professor Victor Vasil'evich Titov, a prominent Russian scientist who greatly contributed to the chemistry of liquid crystals, was President of the Liquid Crystal Society 'Commonwealth' and was a member of the Academy of Engineering of the Russian Federation and the International Academy of Information, was tragically killed on 25 October 1996 just after the conclusion of a Meeting of the Liquid Crystals Society.

Titov was born in 1935 in the village of Usvatu of the Pskov region and travelled a long and glorious road in Russian science. In 1957 he graduated from the Chemistry Department of Moscow State University and moved to Shostka, where he worked at the branch of the All-Union Cinema-Photo Research Institute. Three years later he came back to Moscow and became a postgraduate student of his alma mater. In 1963 he obtained his PhD degree in the field of Organic Chemistry.

From 1963–1966 Titov worked as a Director of the Chemistry Department of the Konakri Polytechnical Institute in Guinea, where he organized the teaching of general and organic chemistry and gave lecture courses on the different aspects of organic chemistry.

In 1966 Titov moved to Moscow and began his research activity at the Organic Intermediates and Dyes Research Institute, which is well-known to all liquid crystal people as NIOPIK. He was an active participant in the organization of the liquid crystal laboratory and in the building of the small liquid crystal production plant of NIOPIK. Victor Vasil'evich rose from heading a local experimental laboratory to be the General

Director of NIOPIK. In 1980 he obtained his Doctor of Sciences degree and in 1982 he became a Professor of Chemistry.

Titov greatly contributed to the scientific foundation and organization of liquid crystals production in the former USSR, and the development of scientific and technological centres associated with the study of liquid crystals, dichroic dyes and photonic materials. Simultaneously with his administrative director's work at NIOPIK, Professor Titov participated in fundamental investigations on the synthesis of new heterocyclic mesogenic compounds (pyridine and quinoline derivatives), the evaluation of new compositions of liquid crystals for electro-optical applications, and the creation of a number of new dichroic dyes and their mixtures with liquid crystals.

These studies won the team of researchers headed by Titov the State Prize of the USSR (1985). He also was awarded other state awards of the USSR and Russian Federation. Titov was the author of more than 240 scientific publications and patents in the field of the chemistry and physical chemistry of liquid crystals.

From 1991, Titov became the Director of the All-Russian Research Institute of Polygraphy, while continuing his scientific activity with the chemical laboratory of NIOPIK. Despite intense administrative work, Professor Titov continued to demonstrate all his abilities as a talented organizer. For example, he was one of the founding organizers of the Liquid Crystal Society 'Commonwealth' (1991) and was elected by common consent the first President of the Society which united more than 200 scientists and researchers from Russia, the republics of the former USSR (Belarussia, Ukraine, Georgia, etc) and other countries (Italy, France, etc). On the day of his death Titov was re-elected as President of the Liquid Crystal Society for a further period, demonstrating the full confidence and profound respect for his indefatigable activity; but destiny gave him another way.

The blessed memory of Professor Titov will always live in the hearts of his pupils and colleagues.

PROFESSOR V. P. SHIBAEV