OBITUARY

VALENTIN ALEKSEEVICH KARGIN (1907-1969)

On October 21, 1969, the distinguished chemist, Hero of Socialist Labor, Lenin and State Prize laureate, Academician Valentin Alekseevich Kargin suddenly passed away.



Kargin was born in Dnepropetrovsk in 1907. At sixteen he began to work at the Karpov Scientific Research Physicochemical Institute, where in the course of 45 years he rose from laboratory assistant to become a noted scientist with a worldwide reputation. By his twentieth year he had already published seven papers. While continuing to work, he pursued his studies at Moscow State University, completing them in 1930.

Kargin made an invaluable contribution to the development of polymer science. His learning, indefatigable energy, enormous strength of conviction, and high sense of responsibility made him a recognized leader of this branch of science in our country and a well-known figure abroad. In 1956 he founded our first university department of high-molecular compounds, which he continued to run until his death. This department nurtured a whole brood of young scientists now engaged in various branches of polymer science. Kargin gained wide recognition for his research on the structure of polymers and the relationship between the supermolecular structures and physicomechanical properties of polymeric materials. He proposed fundamentally new approaches to the synthesis and chemistry of polymeric substances. His most important results also include the critical analysis and development of the theory of the structural characteristics and properties of crystalline polymers, the development of a theory of gelatinization, and the creation of the mechano-chemical basis of the theory of mechanical fatigue of polymers.

Kargin combined his intense scientific activity with broad organizational and social interests. He also took the initiative in founding the journal "Polymer Mechanics."

Kargin's scientific, organizational, and teaching activities won him high government awards, notably a Lenin Prize and three State Prizes.

Valentin Alekseevich Kargin – distinguished scientist, talented teacher, and public figure – will always be fondly and respectfully remembered by his many students and friends.

Translated from Mekhanika Poliomerov, No. 6, p. 1137, November-December, 1969.

© 1972 Consultants Bureau, a division of Plenum Publishing Corporation, 227 West 17th Street, New York, N. Y. 10011. All rights reserved. This article cannot be reproduced for any purpose whatsoever without permission of the publisher. A copy of this article is available from the publisher for $15.00.