

ANNIVERSARIES

SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY OF VLADIMIR VLADIMIROVICH SKORCHELLETTI



On the 17th May, 1972, one of the most important specialists in the field of electrochemistry and corrosion of metals celebrated his 70th birthday, namely Professor and Doctor of Technical Science Vladimir Vladimirovich Skorchelletti.

On finishing at the Leningrad Mining Institute in 1925 V. V. Skorchelletti worked at the Lenin Factory, Nevsk, and from 1929 to 1936 in the Institute of Metals, where together with A. I. Shultin he set up one of the first corrosion laboratories in our country.

All the remaining work of V. V. Skorchelletti over a period of 40 years has been devoted to problems of the corrosion and protection of metals. He successfully investigated numerous important problems in the modern theory of corrosion. The investigations on the chemical stability of alloys which he followed over a period of 30 years enabled him to determine unambiguously the reason for the rapid changes in the corrosion properties of alloys at a certain concentration of the alloying component. The method of measuring the electrode impedance which he employed in his studies of passive metals enabled him to obtain interesting data on the properties of passivating layers. Investigation of the anodic behavior of brass led to the discovery of the mechanism of "selective-component" corrosion.

Much interest also attaches to his investigations in the field of atmospheric corrosion. With the aid of extremely precise experiments he studied the conditions for the appearance of a layer of adsorbed water on the surface of a metal, which could function as an electrolyte, and indicated the electrochemical nature of this type of corrosion.

In investigating the phenomena of corrosion cracking he established the important role of electrocapillary phenomena, which lead to a change in the surface strength of the metal.

The scientific investigations of Vladimir Vladimirovich were characterized by originality and experimental elegance, the accuracy of the conclusions, and their practical value. His work is well known not only in this country but also abroad. He has published more than 100 scientific papers, and numerous manuals and monographs. In 1959 he published the fundamental work "Theoretical Electrochemistry",

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which received the general recognition of specialists, and now a new book is in print entitled "Theoretical Basis of the Corrosion of Metals".

A widely erudite scientist and specialist, a stimulating, witty, and attentive companion, a sensitive educator of the young, a man of deep principle and exceptional modesty: such is Vladimir Vladimirovich Skorchelletti in the unanimous opinion of all those who have worked with him or have known him.

The pedagogical activity of V. V. Skorchelletti began at Leningrad Polytechnical Institute in 1932 and ceased only during the war years, 1941-1943, when he served in the Army. A lucid lecturer, and a teacher of wide erudition he gave original courses in physical chemistry, theoretical electrochemistry, and the corrosion of metals. Many of his energies were directed towards the training of scientific and engineering workers in the corrosion and protection of metals. On his initiative in 1965 the Leningrad Polytechnical Institute created Corrosion and Protection of Metals as an engineering faculty. Under the guidance of Vladimir Vladimirovich numerous candidate's dissertations were completed, and some of his pupils were doctors of science.

V. V. Skorchelletti was one of the organizers and the most active participants in the first corrosion journal started in this country, *Korroziya i Bor'ba s Nei*, which was published for 30 years. After several years he became a member of the editorial board of the journal *Prikladnoi Khimii*.

The versatile activities of V. V. Skorchelletti have earned due recognition from the Government: the medals awarded him include the Order of Red Labor.