

V. A. Frank-Kamenetsky 1915–1994

V. A. Frank-Kamenetsky, an outstanding crystallographer, professor of the St. Petersburg University, doctor of earth sciences and member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, passed away on 12 May 1994.

Viktor Frank-Kamenetsky was born in Vilnius (Lithuania), to the family of an engineer on 28 February 1915. In the year 1916, the whole family moved to Siberia and settled down on the shore of a great and beautiful lake Baikal, where the head of the family took a position as professor of chemistry at Irkutsk University. Here, Viktor finished his studies at the secondary school. In 1932 he returned to Europe where he entered the Geological Faculty of Leningrad (St. Petersburg) University. After 5 years, he graduated from the Department of Crystallography which had been founded by E. S. Fedorov, the discoverer of the 230 space groups of crystallographic symmetry. In this department Viktor started his doctoral studies, which were soon interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. After the war he returned to the University and defended his thesis (on the relation of the morphology and crystal structure of northcaucasian borates) in 1947.

From this moment on, the young scientist threw all his vital energy into X-ray mineralogy and he created the X-ray laboratory in the department of crystallography which grew into one of the leading centers of the study of solid solutions in the world of minerals. This subject became the theme of his doctoral thesis (defended in 1963) and of his book *The Nature of the Structural Additions and Inclusions in Minerals* (Leningrad University, 1964). In the sixties through eighties, Frank-Kamenetsky inquired into chemical crystallography of clay and other minerals and into hydrothermal synthesis of layer silicates. This work of his school is summarized in the book *Transforming Layered Silicates at High Pressure/High Temperature Conditions* [V. A. Frank-Kamenetsky, N. V. Kotov, and E. A. Goilo, Nedra, Leningrad

(1983)]. In all, Prof. V. A. Kamenetsky published more than 400 works including numerous proceedings/transactions on crystallography, chemical crystallography, and X-ray diffraction of which he served as an editor.

As a university professor, V. A. Frank-Kamenetsky (designed and) gave lectures on chemical crystallography, crystallography, X-ray diffraction, history of crystallography, etc. Hundreds of his pupils, dispersed throughout the world, enjoyed the splendid, stimulating and attractive style of his lectures. Together with his disciples, he wrote and edited the textbooks *Manual of X-ray Diffraction Investigation of Minerals* (Nedra, Leningrad, 1975); and *X-ray Crystallography of Main Types of Rock Minerals* (Nedra, Leningrad, 1983). From 1968 until 1989 he served as the head of the Department of Crystallography (one of the largest in Europe).

Frank-Kamenetsky took an active part in the Soviet All-Union Conferences on Mineral Resources and after the death of N. V. Belov, he became organizer of these Conferences. He served as chairman of the Russian Commission on New Minerals, as a representative of Russia in the International Commission on New Minerals, and as chairman of the Commission on X-ray Crystallography of Mineral Resources of Russia. He was a member of the English and French Mineralogical Societies and of the Advisory Boards of the journals *Kristallografia* (Russia), *Powder Diffraction* (U.S.A.), and *Crystal Research and Technology* (Germany).

The friends, colleagues, and pupils of Viktor Albertovich will never forget his vitality, his endeavour after the scientific and human communication and hospitality, his passion to visit scientific meetings (frequently with all the department), his love for walking and ski-outing, his lively interest in literature and fine arts, his intuition, his activity in discussions, and his gentleness.

S. Filatov