

OBITUARY

ALEXANDER PAVLOVICH VINOGRADOV

Academician Alexander Pavlovich Vinogradov, the well-known Russian geochemist died suddenly on 16th November 1975, shortly after his 80th birthday. His own country had awarded him its highest honours - twice Hero of Socialist Labour, winner of the Lenin Prize and State prizes, Vice President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Director of the Vernadskiy Institute of Geochemistry and Analytical Chemistry, and Head of the Department of Geochemistry at Moscow State University. He was also known to geochemists throughout the world as the Editor in Chief of "Geokhimiya".

The name of A. P. Vinogradov has become almost synonymous with geochemistry, and his long career carried him from the early days of modern geochemistry into the space age. Indeed, for the past five years he had been working on moon rocks brought back by the Russian unmanned Luna probes, and his last paper, published only one month before his death, dealt with "The Formation of the Metallic Cores of Planets".

Although Vinogradov may be best known to New Zealand geochemists for his work on element distribution and migration, and his later work on isotopes (particularly those of carbon), he was not narrow in his outlook. He stressed the importance of field work, and used his vast knowledge in attempts to solve many geological problems including the differentiation of the Earth's mantle, the genesis of carbonatites, and more recently, the composition of rocks of rift zones in connection with modern theories of plate tectonics. He was a geochemist who could be readily understood and appreciated by geologists with little chemistry, and by chemists with little geology.

A. P. Vinogradov really wrote his own memorial when he summarized (Geokhimiya, No. 11, 1967; translated in Geochemistry International, Vol. 4 p. 1027-9) the progress of Russian Geochemistry over the 50 years since the October Revolution. For many geochemists, it will be hard to think of Russian geochemistry without remembering him. He was one of the great geochemists of our century, and will find a place beside Alexander Fersman and V. I. Vernadskiy as a remarkable scientist and scholar.

G. A. Challis
N.Z. Geological Survey

I thank Earl Ingerson for calling the death of A. P. Vinogradov to my attention, and Alva Challis for writing the obituary. -Ed.