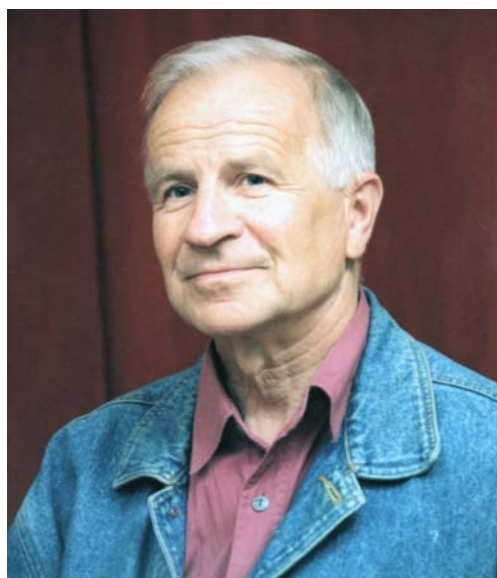


VII European Furnace Symposium on Atomic Absorption Spectrometry, Electrothermal Vaporization and Atomization (VII EFS) and XII Solid Sampling Colloquium with Atomic Spectrometry (XII SSC), St. Petersburg (Russia), 2–7 July 2006



Boris L'vov.

The VII European Furnace Symposium on Atomic Absorption Spectrometry, Electrothermal Vaporization and Atomization and XII Solid Sampling Colloquium with Atomic Spectrometry were held in the nice vicinity of St. Petersburg on the beach of Finland Gulf, July 2–7, 2006.

This was already the third joint meeting of the formerly separately organized conference series, European Furnace Symposium (EFS) and Solid Sampling Colloquium (SSC) with Atomic Spectrometry. The first joint conference was organized in 2002 in Bulgaria and the second one in 2004 in Hungary.

This time the EFS/SSC conference was organized as a post-symposium of the International Congress on Analytical Sciences (ICAS-2006 Moscow, June 25–30, 2006) providing participants the unique opportunity to visit both of the greatest centers of Russian science and culture.

The year 2006 is special for graphite furnace and related technologies. Fifty years ago Boris L'vov has initiated the very first experiments with a graphite cuvette in St. Petersburg. Therefore, this EFS/SSC meeting was devoted to the anniversary of the

invention of electrothermal atomic absorption spectrometry and thus was held in the right place and at the right time. Unfortunately, Boris was in a hospital during the days of the conference and was not able to attend the meeting personally. But 146 participants from 18 countries in 102 presentations have covered practically all aspects of modern graphite furnace technology, solid sampling and the related topics including: theory, technique and history of electrothermal atomization, hydride generation, cold vapor and other atomization techniques, direct atomic absorption analysis of powders and slurries, multielement atomic absorption analysis, sample introduction for ICP-OES/MS and metrological aspects of spectrochemical analysis.

Tutorial pre-conference short courses on atomic absorption analysis were offered for analytical chemists at the beginning of the conference.

Besides the interesting scientific contributions, the participants found opportunities to sample some of St. Petersburg' famous cultural and historical treasures in a series of well organized excursions.

I would like to thank the participants of both meetings, and especially those who submitted a paper to this issue for their valuable contributions. Special thanks to Greet de Loos for her tremendous efforts in managing this special issue. Furthermore, thanks go to the International Scientific committee, Program and Organizing Committee, the sponsors, and especially to Vice-Chairman Dr. I. Grinshtein and the conference secretary, Dr. N. Romanova, who did a lot of work to manage the St. Petersburg conference in the right tracks. And last but not least, just a couple of days after finishing the meeting in St. Petersburg, on July 9th, Boris L'vov has celebrated his 75th anniversary. He is still very active in research and just published a monograph "Thermal decomposition of solid and liquid substances" that has grown up from his fundamental graphite furnace research. I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate him on behalf of our scientific community on this great occasion. Good luck, Boris, and we are waiting for new inventions from you!

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