*In Memoriam***Valery Leonidovich Barsukov**

The international community of geochemists and planetologists lost an outstanding and highly respected colleague when academician V.L. Barsukov died on July 23, 1992, at the age of 64.

Born in Moscow, Valery Barsukov graduated from the Moscow Institute of Geological Prospecting. As a student, he worked on the origin of the smoky color of quartz, and his first publication was devoted to the results of this work. After graduation, Barsukov's main scientific interests were concentrated on the geochemistry of ore deposits, especially the geochemistry of boron, tin, lead, tungsten, and gold. In the late 1950s and the first half of the 1960s, he was engaged in geochemical research in southern Yakutia, the eastern Baykal region (1957), and the Soviet Far East (1966), where he studied tin and tungsten deposits.

Barsukov worked intensely on new methods of geochemical prospecting for deep-seated ore deposits (1968–1969), and he was the author of a pioneering method of geochemical prospecting for deep-seated tin deposits. This method is being applied successfully today by Russian geologists in different regions of the country.

In 1971, Barsukov received a doctor's degree in geology and mineralogy and began investigations on the metallogenic properties of the upper mantle. He became a Professor in 1974 and also was involved in extraterrestrial geochemistry. He was engaged in geochemical and petrochemical studies and in X-ray photoelectronic spectroscopy studies of lunar regoliths.

A large part of Professor Barsukov's research was devoted to geochemical methods for earthquake prediction (1979). He also conducted studies on the geochemistry and physicochemical factors that controlled the chemical composition of the Venus cloud, the rock types of Venus, lunar rock geochemistry, comparative planetology, and the early history of the Earth. He was the author or coauthor of more than 300 scientific papers.

Valery Barsukov was at the same time both the Director of the Vernadsky Institute for Geochemistry and Analytical Chemistry and the head of the Laboratory for Applied Geochemistry. Recently, he worked on geochemical investigations of and on the corresponding geochemical prospecting for gold deposits and massive sulfide ore deposits, as well as in a number of programs in the field of cosmo-geochemistry, comparative planetology, and the geochemical methods for earthquake prediction.

Professor V. Barsukov was involved for many years in international scientific organizations. He served as a member of the Scientific Council of the International Geological Correlation Programme, as Chairman of Working Group B-1 in the Committee on Space Research, and as a member of the International Cosmonautic Association and the International Programmes on Extraterrestrial Research. From 1980 to 1984, he was President of the International Association of Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry. In 1984, Barsukov was elected Vice President of the International Union of Geological Sciences for the period 1984–1988, and he was reelected for the period 1989–1992.

Valery Barsukov was a very open and sociable person who played the guitar and was loved by his friends. He had a great many friends, not only in Russia but in many foreign countries as well. □

Ruslan Volkov