

*To the memory  
of Yakov Borisovich Zel'dovich*

Famous world-wide known physicist theorist Ya. B. Zel'dovich (1914–1987) passed away untimely in December 1987 being full of plans for future and seemingly healthy. His outstanding talent, energy, and enthusiasm astonished everybody who had a chance to communicate with him and to attend conferences and seminars with his participation. His creative legacy is so great (about 30 monographs) and diverse that many West researchers believe that his name is a collective pseudonym, and this is without taking into account his contribution to the defense research in our country awarded by three Stars of Hero of Socialist Labor, Lenin Prize, and four Stalin Prizes.

By the seventies anniversary of Ya. B. Zeldovich, two volumes of his selected works [1, 2] were published with a Foreword written by Yu. B. Khariton and comments of prominent specialists in the relevant areas of science. The “Autobiographic Afterword” in [2] has an educational and informative value.

In 1994, the Scientific Council on Combustion and Explosion headed by A. G. Merzhanov organized an International Conference held in Voronovo, Moscow suburb. The conference called Zel'dovich Memorial was devoted to the eightieth anniversary of Ya. B. Zel'dovich. Scientists in the field most prominent at that time were invited to participate in the Conference. It was a festival of science for the new Russia: virtually all the invited scientists responded and came to our country to pay tribute of respect to this outstanding man. Proceedings of the Conference were published in English in two volumes [3, 4]. Later on, the selected plenary lectures were published by the American Institute of Astronautics and Aeronautics in a form of a single volume [5].

The second Zel'dovich Memorial was timed to his ninetieth anniversary (2004) and was held in Moscow, again under sponsorship of the Scientific Council on Combustion and Explosion. Nickolay N. Kidin was the person who greatly contributed to the preparation and organization of this conference. The Conference was very desired and successful with a great participation of Russian and overseas scientists and scientists from the Commonwealth of Independent States. The speakers often cited Ya. B. Zel'dovich's works being admired by his scientific intuition and elegance of ideas and mathematical calculations. Proceedings of the Second Memorial were published in the form of a single volume [6].

The Third International Conference on Combustion and Explosion devoted to the one hundredth anniversary of Ya. B. Zel'dovich — the third Zel'dovich Memorial was held in November 2014 in Moscow. Presented at the Conference were excellent plenary lectures virtually in all areas of the contemporary

combustion science [7] as well as a great number of oral and poster papers solving particular research problems that appear in this volume. The Conference has indeed demonstrated nonfading respect to the invaluable contribution of Ya. B. Zel'dovich to many areas of modern science. Special mentioning deserves enthusiasm of the team that organized the Conference and of its participants who have felt involvement in this noble event.

## References

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