

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR V. A. SMIRNOV
(1931 – 1996)

PETER BYSTROV

VLADIMIR ALEKSANDROVICH SMIRNOV was born on March 2, 1931 in Moscow. He carried out his graduate and postgraduate studies in the Philosophy Department of Moscow State University. His scientific supervisor was the outstanding Russian philosopher V. F. Asmus. From 1957 until 1961 he was lecturer in philosophy and logic at Tomsk University. Thereafter his scientific and teaching activity was continued at research and education centres in Moscow.

Smirnov was lecturer, and later full Professor of Philosophy, at Moscow State University, the Head of the Department of Epistemology, Logic and Philosophy of Science and Technology, and the Head of Section of Logic at the Institute of Philosophy of Russian Academy of Sciences. During his last years he was the leader of the Centre of Logical Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1990–91 he founded a new non-government Institute of Logic, Cognitive Sciences and Development of Personality, intended for research, teaching and editorial work in the field of humanities.

What is to be especially mentioned is Smirnov's organizational and editorial activity. On the one hand it promoted an increase of the influence and impact of logic and rational philosophical methods in scientific life of the former Soviet Union. He was one of the main organizers and participants of the All-Union Conferences in Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Sciences since the early 1970s. In the last fifteen years he organized and led the Logic Seminar at the Institute of Philosophy, where leading logicians from Russia and many other countries presented and discussed their newest logical results. These are precisely the conferences and seminars that provide a good impetus for the scientific collaboration between and among logicians, philosophers, mathematicians, scholars in linguistics and computer sciences. On the other hand, his constructive efforts were very important for carrying out