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 Russsian Academy of Sciences. In 1990–91 he founded a new non-goverment 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

fruitful scientific contacts between logicians from the former USSR and those of several other countries. The most important logical works of G. H. von Wright, J. Hintikka, N. Belnap, and others were translated and published in Russian due to him; to these should be added mention the of publication of scores of Russian logical materials in which he played the principal role.

Professor V. A. Smirnov was undoubtedly one of the most prominent figures in logic and methodology of science, a real leader in logical invesigations in the area of the former USSR. He published two books that are classical works for Russian logicians and well-known in several countries. His more than 150 published articles and numerous un-published manuscripts contain interesting results, fresh ideas and hypo-theses. He presented his lectures at Stanford, Oxford and other universities and scientific centres. His talk at the historical section of the VIIIth International Congress of Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science, which took place in Moscow in August 1987 provided an international forum at which logicians and philosophers of science from all parts of the globe had an opportunity to hear him discuss the work on non-classical logic of the late 19th– early 20th-century philosopher and logician N. A. Vasiliev. He was himself the principal organizer of a number of international logic conferences and seminars.

It is not easy to present in a short space all of Smirnov's results and his stimulating ideas. He worked fruitfully in the various fields of mod-ern logic, especially in non-classical logics and their applications to dif-ferent scientific disciplines. A number of original results pertaining to the different forms of logical deduction, interconnections between syllogistics, predicate logic and algebra, on logical methods of analysis of scientific theories, fundamental properties of formal logical systems, etc., belong to him. Investigating features of logical inference, he proposed in particular a new method to prove the cut-elimination theorem for non-classical logical systems and interesting versions of predicate calculi with ε-term. He had formally demonstrated the interrelation between Leśniewski's ontology and second order predicate logic.

One of Smirnov's main scientific interests lay in history of logic and philosophical methodology. Several reconstructions of Aristotle's and Ockham's syllogistics belong to him. He formulated syllogistic systems in axiomatic fashion and had shown their interconnections with classical predicate logic and Boolean algebras. In fact he rediscovered for the scientific community of the world the very interesting works of the Russian logician and thinker N. A. Vasiliev. He reconstructed Vasiliev's

non-Aristotelian logic and proposed on this basis his own idea of many-dimensional logic. The logical methods and tools of Kant, Frege Hilbert, Łukasiewicz. and others were studied, and as a rule developed, by him. His creative thought never remained at rest.

In spite of serious illness, V. A. Smirnov worked until the last minutes of his life. He died on February 12 1996. Now this remarkable talent is alive in the hearts and memories of his friends, colleagues, and students from many countries.

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