Alfred Lvovich Shmelkin

(12.06.1938 – 22.12.2015)

   With deep sorrow and regret we learnt about the death on December 22, 2015 of our colleague, Alfred Lvovich Shmelkin, a prominent algebraist, Honoured Professor of Lomonosov Moscow State University and member of ADM editorial board over the past thirteen years.

   Alfred L. Shmelkin was born on June 12, 1938 in Moscow. In 1956 he began his studies at Moscow State University. He graduated in 1961 from the Department of Mathematics and Mechanics. For the next three years he was a PhD student of J.N. Golovin. In 1964 A.L. Shmelkin defended his PhD thesis in Algebra and three years after, in 1967, he got a degree of Doctor of Science for his dissertation entitled "Products of group varieties". In 1972, by the age of 32, he already became a full Professor at the Department of Higher Algebra of the Lomonosov Moscow State University.

Professor Shmelkin devoted his life to science and teaching. As the founder and leader of the world famous school on group varieties, he made a great contribution to the theory of group varieties and infinite dimensional Lie algebras. His main results, the famous Shmelkin-Neumann Theorem, the construction of verbal wreath products and group varieties of Lie type have found many applications and are widely used by many algebraists. Known for his outstanding teaching abilities, Professor Shmelkin shared his knowledge as a supervisor to 25 PhD students. Many of them became recognizable mathematicians: A. Olshanskii, Yu. Bakhturin, Yu. Razmyslov, A. Krasilnikov, V. Spilrain, R. Stohr, holding the degree of Doctor of Science.

We shall remember Professor Shmelkin as a talented mathematician, a mentor, and a kind, always ready to help, warm-hearted man. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

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