

SERGEI VIKTOROVICH MEYEN

1936—1987

The palaeobotanical world is stunned at the news of the death of Doctor Sergei Viktorovich MEYEN. He died after a long and serious illness on 30th March, 1987 at Moscow. He is survived by his wife Rita and daughter Katerina.

Sergei Viktorovich graduated in Natural Sciences and chose to be a palaeobotanist. He trained in the laboratory of Professor Maria F. Neuburg, the doyen of Soviet Palaeobotany. By the dint of hard work and labour he became the foremost contemporary Soviet expert on Palaeozoic floras. He is ranked alongwith A. N. Krystofovich and M. F. Neuburg.

Meyen specialized in Upper Palaeozoic floras of the U.S.S.R. and made a number of highly significant contributions that include those on Angaran lycopsids and cordaitales. He was not only a descriptive palaeobotanist but a great theoretician, too. He initiated a new trend of thinking amongst his colleagues and students. His most recent contribution on the classification of the gymnosperms created quite a stir and is still being debated.

Sergei Viktorovich was a prolific writer and contributed more than 125 publications in a span of 28 years or so. His publications include original research articles, monographs, books and popular articles. He was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Science in Geology and Mineralogy, in 1971. At the time of his death he was chairing the Palaeofloristics Laboratory of the Geological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences at Moscow. He was a Vice-President of the International Organization for Palaeobotany and a member on the Editorial Boards of *The Palaeobotanist*, *Palaeontographica* and *Biological Memoirs*.

Sergei Viktorovich visited India twice and spent several fruitful months at the Birbal Sahni Institute. He made a large number of friends, several of whom visited and worked at his laboratory in Moscow. He will be remembered not only for his erudition but also for his charming and vivacious personality, open heart and a great sense of humour.



HARI K. MAHESHWARI