

Preface to the anniversary issue

The great men do not die. They pass to eternity. Alexander Mikhailovich Prokhorov, who would be 90 on 11 July 2006, passed to eternity in January 2002.

The immortality of Alexander Mikhailovich Prokhorov is determined first of all by his works and his invaluable contribution to the world science, which has changed the appearance of the world and provided a new quality of our life.

But this is not the only reason for his immortality. And the people who were close to him well understand this. He was a very wise and kind man and was very good to people. This has made people kinder, and the particles of this kindness will be transmitted from one generation to another.

The matter of his life is living and developing. This issue of *Quantum Electronics* is one of the proofs of this. The authors of most papers published in this issue have an honour to call themselves pupils of Alexander Mikhailovich and work at the General Physics Institute founded by him and bearing now his name. I hope that Alexander Mikhailovich would not be ashamed for the pupils of his school.

I.A. Shcherbakov
