

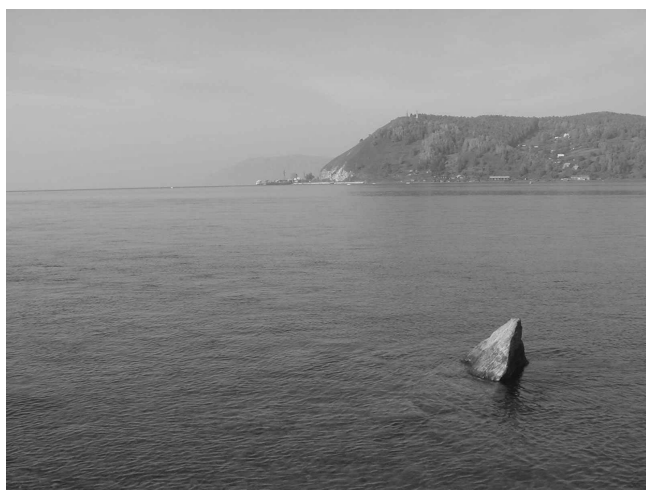
The 26th School on Holography in Irkutsk

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The 26th School on Holography supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (Grant No. 07-02-06109) was held in 4–9 September 2007 at the Irkutsk Air Forces Technical Institute. The rector of the school was doctor of physics and mathematics, professor A.N. Malov, and the chairman of the Program Committee – academician of RAS O.N. Krokhin. The revival of the school after the ten-year intermission was initiated by a professor of the Irkutsk Air Forces Technical Institute A.N. Malov, an enthusiast of holography, in particular, digital and computer holography, supramolecular recording media for holography, laser biomedicine, etc., who became the ‘driving force’ of the School. Studies in these directions are of primary interest for applications of holography in aerospace and military technical fields. This explains to a large extent the fact that the School was held at the leading Air Forces Technical Institute. It should be emphasised that the School was excellently organised, which was obviously facilitated by a high level of the oldest military technical school.

Recall that, beginning from 1969 to 1997, Schools on



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Holography organised by G.V. Skrotskii, professor of the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, were held almost annually in USSR and then in Russia. For ten years elapsed after the last 25th School, many new scientific and technical directions have appeared, in particular, computer holography, fibreoptic sensors and networks, self-developing materials for recording holograms, array photodetectors, reliable and highly efficient diode and fibre lasers, etc. The revival of the School on Holography was necessary to introduce these new directions to young researchers and specialists. Educational lectures beyond the scope of conventional holography were also delivered. All these tasks were successfully realised in the program of the 26th School.

The broad scope of discussed problems is characterised by the titles of sections: optical holography, speckle optics and interferometry; digital image processing, computer optics and digital holography; recording media and holographic memory; fibre optics and its holographic aspects; image and rainbow holography; innovation holographic technologies: application of laser equipment and holography in the Air Force; laser biomedicine; interaction of laser radiation with matter. Both plenary and numerous sectional stand reports were discussed. Among lecturers and reporters were veterans (academician O.N. Krokhin, professor S.B. Gurevich, et al.) and young scientists from Irkutsk and other cities.

Excursions were organised not only to modern holographic laboratories but also to the main chairs, laboratories, and the IHMAES museum. This was of special interest for participants of the School working at academic institutes. The out-of-town session of School accompanied by a trip to the legendary Baikal Lake was held. The photograph shows the outflow of the Angara, the only river flowing out of Baikal, with the famous Shaman stone.

For me, the participation in this School was especially interesting because it coincided with my departure 50 years ago from Irkutsk for studying at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. Having returned for a week to Irkutsk and Baikal, I saw that the Eastern Siberia is the developing and richest region of Russia inhabited by original and friendly people.

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