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Translation edited by Frances H. Goldman
with the assistance of AMS staff

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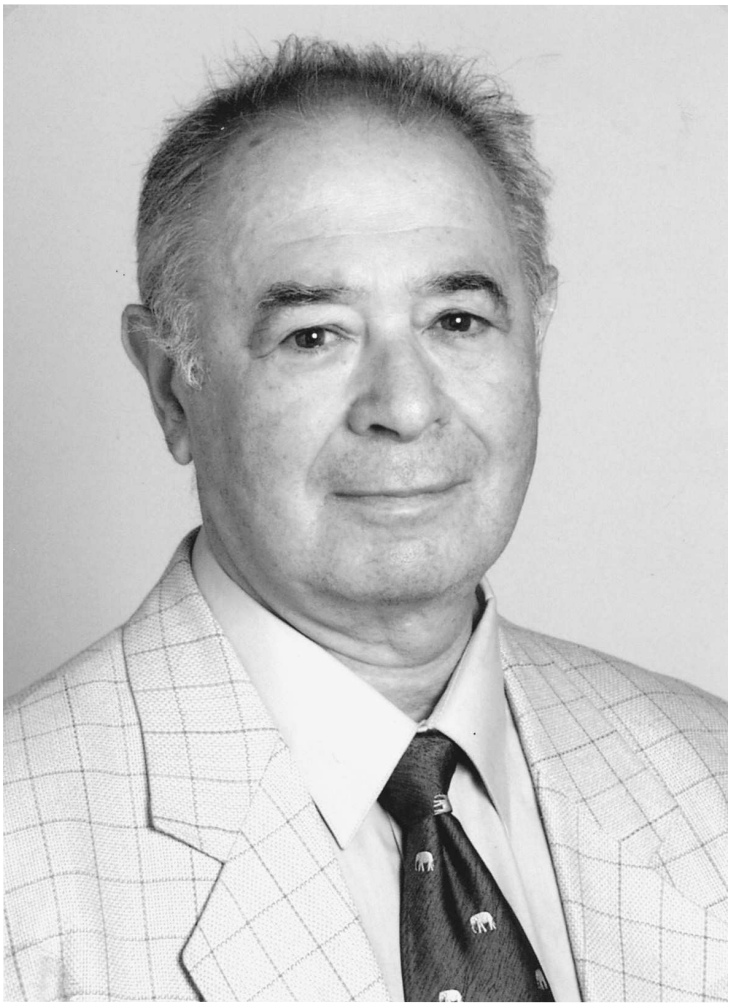

Leonid Romanovich Volevich, Editor-in-Chief of Trudy Moskovskogo Matematicheskogo Obshchestva (Transactions of the Moscow Mathematical Society), passed away on 26 April 2007. This is an irreplaceable loss for our journal and the Russian mathematical school. Members of the Editorial Board present their deep condolences to all relatives, friends, and colleagues of Leonid Romanovich.

LEONID ROMANOVICH VOLEVICH

Leonid Romanovich Volevich, Editor-in-Chief of *Trudy Moskovskogo Matematicheskogo Obshchestva* (*Transactions of the Moscow Mathematical Society*), passed away on 26 April 2007. For more than forty years the organization and preparation for publication of this journal rested mainly on his shoulders, and he was extraordinarily conscientious in carrying out these duties. He edited the last issue personally, even though he was seriously ill. All who were close to Leonid Romanovich are filled with a feeling of deep sorrow at this irreplaceable loss of a friend. He was a remarkable mathematician, an exceptionally kind person, a bright spirit, and a loyal and reliable colleague.

Volevich's creative work was devoted to a single though very multifarious current in mathematics: the general theory of partial differential equations. This branch of mathematics distinguished itself as a separate direction somewhere around the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century. The creative work of J. Hadamard had a great influence on its formation. His ideas were taken up in the 1930s here by I. G. Petrovskiĭ and S. L. Sobolev and in the West by L. Gårding, J. Leray, J. Schauder, and others. A period of flourishing of the theory began in the 1940s and 50s, when the founders were joined by their numerous followers and students: M. I. Vishik, A. Douglis, J. J. Kohn, O. A. Ladyzhenskaya, B. Malgrange, L. Nirenberg, O. A. Oleĭnik, L. Hörmander, G. E. Shilov, and others. Mathematicians of Volevich's generation began to work actively in the theory of partial differential equations in the mid-1950s. In Moscow M. S. Agranovich, V. M. Borok, S. G. Gindikin, Yu. V. Egorov, Ya. I. Zhitomirskiĭ, S. N. Kruzhkov, V. P. Palamodov, B. P. Paneyakh, G. I. Èskin, and others were active in shaping the general theory, and a noteworthy place among them was occupied by Volevich.

He began his creative life in Oleĭnik's seminars. On graduating from Moscow University, he became a graduate student in the Division of Applied Mathematics (now the Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics), with K. I. Babenko as his research advisor. Volevich regarded Ol'ga Arsen'evna and Konstantin Ivanovich as his teachers and always treated them with the deepest respect.

He devoted his creative powers to the analysis and further development of the work of the founders of the general theory of partial differential equations. Over the years he gained a position of deserved authority in this area of mathematics, and whenever someone was needed to write a survey in this direction, his name was always among the first to come up.

Volevich produced remarkable results on distinguishing the principal parts of systems of partial differential equations, on the Cauchy problem for differential operators of general form with variable coefficients, on hypoellipticity problems, and on the theory of function spaces. In the course of many years he collaborated with Gindikin, and in their joint papers it was revealed, in particular, what an essential role the Newton polyhedron can play in the theory of partial differential equations.

Leonid Romanovich Volevich worked up to the final days of his life. His last fundamental investigation was published in the preceding issue of *Transactions of the Moscow Mathematical Society*, the journal with which he was associated for such a major part of his life.

Bright memories of this excellent mathematician and human being will always be preserved in the hearts of those who had occasion to come into contact with him.

V. M. Tikhomirov

Translated by H. H. McFaden

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