

# IN MEMORIAM

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## **Iana Ammosova**

On March 16<sup>th</sup> 2000, the heart of Iana Ammosova stopped its beating. The charming person, good companion and the loyal friend has gone.

Iana Ammosova was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 1931 in the family of remarkable statesman Maxim Ammosov. On year 1938, tragically famous in Soviet Union as the peak of Stalinism repression, her farther was illicitly put into a prison and executed and her mother was expelled from the Communist Party members. This fact stamped Iana as a daughter of the "enemy of the people" until 1956, when her farther was rehabilitated posthumously.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War Iana together with her mother and sisters were evacuated to Eastern Siberia and went back to Moscow after the war. Being just a schoolgirl, she already started to work to support the family. But in spite of the difficulties she graduated from school with a golden medal and dreamed to become a physicist. She passed the exams in Moscow State University but was not accepted because she was a daughter of the "enemy of the people". Then in 1949 Iana joined Moscow Institute of Chemistry and Technology and after graduating from it continued to work there at the Faculty of Hard Fuel. On 1963 she defended her Ph.D. thesis "Composition and properties of organic matter in coals of Yakutia".

Iana came to the Biological Department of Lomonosov Moscow State University on 1968. During her 32 years work in Moscow University (first in Soil Science Division of Biological Department and later in Soil Chemistry Chair of Soil Science Department) Iana Ammosova passed the way from an Assistant to Senior Researcher. She became a leading specialist in the field of natural organic substances of different origin: sediments, peat, peloids, coals and soils. The scope of her scientific interests was very wide, embracing problems from molecular parameters of humic substances to the regularities of soil humus formation in natural and anthropogenic landscapes. Important part of research activity of Iana Ammosova dealt with the theoretical and methodological problems of soil pollution with organic toxicants, monitoring of oil-polluted soils, sorption of simazine by humic acids and the fate of silicon compounds in soil-plant system. Last years she investigated agro-ecological problems of application some of so called non-traditional organic fertilizers originated from waste materials: sewage sludge, technical lignin, sapropel, organic-silicon compounds and their composts. Iana Ammosova published 225 scientific papers and educated as supervisor 35 students and 7 Ph.D. students in the field of soil chemistry.

Since 1994 she was member of the IHSS and Russian Chapter Coordinator, doing her best to involve Russia in IHSS activity and to bring together Russian scientists interested in humus chemistry. To date, the Russian Chapter already enumerates 65 IHSS-members. Iana used to participate actively in scientific conferences, giving many lectures and presentations both in Russia and abroad. She visited almost all the countries of the former Soviet Union and also Bulgaria, Poland, USA, Japan, Germany, Italy and Sweden. Even last autumn, already being seriously ill, she had made bright presentations during the International Congress on Bioconversion of Organic Wastes (Ivano-Frankovsk, Ukraine) and 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference "Humic Substances as Factor of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems" (Bydgoszcz, Poland). Since 1998 she was a member of "Humic Substances in the Environment" Editorial Board.

Iana Ammosova was a center, a kind of catalyst for many activities. In spite of a lot of difficulties, which she had experienced in her life, Iana had always been a very kind, optimistic and clear person. Until her last days Iana kept her school and institute friendship. At the University she attended summer field excursions for students, making them not only useful, but also bright and cheerful. She liked to sing and to dance, to travel, was fond of tourism. Iana was loved not only by her close friends, but also by many people who surrounded her. And Iana replied them with the real loyal friendship, being always ready to help any person if it was wanted. She especially loved students, both her pupils and others and called them "all my children". Iana Ammosova was a very talented Teacher, who taught students not only science, but the life attitude as well. Many of her former pupils, already being well-known specialists in their fields, used to visit Iana for advises or just to get a charge of cheerfulness and optimism from her.

Bright and clear memory about Iana Ammosova will be kept forever in the hearts of her friends, colleagues and all the people who have known her.