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## A FEW MEMORIES OF MARAT TEREITYOVYCH SHPAK

As I remember, my acquaintance with Marat Terentiyovych Shpak, one of the leading scientists and talented organizers of the scientific activity of the Institute of Physics, the leading institute of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (this is exactly what I can say today, after almost 60 years of my work at this institute), began with my arrival at this scientific institution at the end of 1967. The director of the institute at that time was Antonina Fedorivna Prykhot'ko, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR (AS UkrSSR) and a talented experimental physicist, under whose supervision such outstanding scientists of the institute as Mykhailo Brodyn, Marat Soskin, Marat Shpak, Serhiy Ryabchenko, Mykhailo Kuryk, and many others, somewhat younger, later grew up as scientists. The institute was often visited by Oleksandr Davydov, Academician of the AS UkrSSR (he headed the Department of theoretical physics), and among the institute's well-known theorists, there were already such scientists as Valentyn Vinets'kyi, Volodymyr Mashkevych, Vadym Vladymirov, Petro Tomchuk, Ernst Pashyts'kyi... We should also not forget a large group of scientists from our "seventh building". A creative scientific atmosphere reigned at the institute.

At first (from 1965), I worked (according to my job placement after graduating from the university) at the Institute of Semiconductor Physics of the AS UkrSSR, in the theoretical department headed by Academician Solomon Pekar, then for some time at the department headed by Serhiy Sveshnikov (later the director of that institute, Academician of the AS UkrSSR). Following the good advice of Mykhailo Vasylyovych Kuryk, I successfully entered the gradu-

ate school under the guidance of Petro Mykhailovych Tomchuk (later, they became my colleagues and friends; may their memory be blessed).

After graduating from graduate school in 1970, I was employed at our institute. Of course, such a decision could not have been made without the support of the institute's directorate and the director, Marat Shpak himself, who was elected to this position that year. A year later, I successfully defended my PhD thesis devoted to the the creation of the theory of transport phenomena in semiconductors with low symmetry and a narrow band gap. Marat Terentiyovych was the chairman of the academic council. The defense of a thesis was an important event at the institute at that time. I recall that my colleague Viktor Ageikin also defended his PhD thesis at the same academic council (his scientific supervisor was Yurii Grygorovych Ptushynskyi, the deputy director of the institute), and almost half of the institute's employees celebrated our scientific success together in a restaurant on Khreshchatyk.

Later, my meetings with Marat Terentiyovych became more frequent because after defending my dissertation, I was elected to the position of the head of the institute's trade union committee. The situation at the institute was interesting at that time: all three main officials of the institute were graduates of Chernivtsi University: Marat Shpak was the director, Mykhailo Kuryk was the head of the Communist Party organization, and I was the head of the institute's trade union committee. The most urgent issue in the union's activities at that time was providing housing for the institute's employees. Only a few apartments and rooms were allocated for the institute, and there were more than a hundred scientists in line to receive, at least, some kind of housing. Those issues could not be resolved fairly without the support and understanding of Marat Terentiyovych. He always understood my arguments (the proposals of the trade union committee), and we had

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**Fig. 1.** Petro Tomchuk's 50th birthday (1984). Top row (left to right):: V. Shenderovs'kyi, V. Bondar, I. Dykman, P. Barans'kyi, Yu. Ptushyns'kyi, R. Fedorovych. Bottom row (left to right): V. Shekhovtsov, P. Tomchuk, M. Shpak



**Fig. 2.** Petro Tomchuk's 50th birthday (Metro Restaurant, 1984). Left to right: V. Shekhovtsov, Yu. Ptushyns'kyi, M. Shpak, V. Vinets'kyi, P. Tomchuk, V. Shenderovs'kyi

practically no misunderstandings, even in cases such as improving the living conditions of leading scientists, e.g., Professor Mark Davydovych Gabovych (I remember how he sometimes read poems by Stus

and other poets to me) or the promising theoretician Petro Mykhailovych Tomchuk.

It was interesting to communicate with Marat Terentiyovych on various topics. Undoubtedly, he was a person of great erudition, a patriot, and an expert in the history of Ukrainian culture...

In the early 1990s, our meetings with the director of the institute became more frequent again. I recall some events. First of all, this was the celebration of the 50th birthday of my supervisor, Petro Mykhailovych Tomchuk. Marat Terentiyovych highly valued this scientist as a talented theoretical physicist and one of the leading scientists at the institute. In 1973, he supported the proposal of Oleksandr Serhiyovych Davydov that Tomchuk should head the Department of Theoretical Physics (although there were other opinions, for example, from Antonina Fedorivna Prykhot'ko). This celebration took place in 1984 and became an important event in the scientific life of the institute.

By that time, I had already prepared my doctoral dissertation for defense, and the support of Marat Terentiyovych was important for me. It was so because, owing to certain circumstances that emerged at the institute, I did not consider defending my dissertation in Kyiv to be the best option. Those circumstances arose due to the inadequate behavior of one of our employees, affected the health of many of our scientists, and did harm both to the institute team as a whole and to Marat Terentiyovych as well. However, that is now a matter of the past.

Finally, I defended my doctoral dissertation in Vilnius in 1984, Marat Terentiyovych became Academician of the AS UkrSSR (in 1990), and Petro Mykhailovych became a corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (in 2000).

I am grateful to fate that I was fortunate to work alongside those outstanding personalities of our institute, talented scientists, and patriots of Ukraine. May their memory be blessed and eternal.