

TEACHERS

This is a great credit of his school teacher **Georgy Andreevich Poplyayev** that Yu. Lazarev chose Physics as a profession. His pupils studied Physics «not by Peryshkin schoolbook, but by Landau and Lifshitz textbooks». On entrance examinations in Physics in Riga's institutes in 1960-th it was enough to say name «Poplyayev» and highest mark was guaranteed! – so high was this teacher authority. «Poplyayev' pupil» – was a proud name and was a sign of high quality.

Knowledge in Physics and other disciplines, gotten in 13-th Riga's school, far exceeded usual school program, what gave its school-leaver Yu. Lazarev easy chance to enter to the Faculty of Physics and Mechanics of the Leningrad Politechnical Institute.

Love for fine literature, for poetry, for careful work with words – all this cultivated in their pupils Russian language and literature teacher **Olga Mihailovna Poplyayeva**, who was Yu. Lazarev' class teacher in 1961-1963. He was among her best and lovely pupils.

Below come some exceptions from an article about well known Riga's teachers Poplyayev, published by journalist L. Pribylskaya in «Business-CLASS» magazine, Riga.

Пророки в своем отечестве

«PER ASPERA AD ASTRA!»
(«ЧЕРЕЗ ТЕРНИИ — К ЗВЕЗДАМ!»)

Он не был академиком, Героем Советского Союза или знаменитым артистом. Но спустя 40 лет его помнят больше, чем академика, героя или артиста. Георгий Андреевич Попляев был выдающимся Учителем.

Восхищение и обожание, которое много лет назад он внушал своим ученикам, ныне сменилось огромной благодарностью и ощущением того, что в их судьбе Попляев был не только учителем школы, но и учителем жизни.



[Head part of the article entitled «Prophets in their own country». Sharp photos: G.Poplyayev (top) and O.Poplyayeva (bottom). «He was neither an academician, nor Soviet Union Hero, nor famous artist. But even 40 years later he is well remembered even better than academician, hero, or artist. Georgy Andreevich Poplyayev was outstanding Teacher.

Admiration and adoration what he inspired in his pupils many years ago, now replaced by huge gratitude and feeling that in their destiny Poplyayev was not only the school teacher, but also the master of life.»]

...Truly speaking he became a school teacher by occasion and never planned to stop on that. But it happened very differently.

...When Poplyayev was on 2-nd course in the Leningrad institute of railway transportation, where he entered in 1937, some «recruiters» came there from new Military technical engineering university (VITU in Russian), which intended to prepare naval engineers. They selected only the best in knowledge. This way Georgy became VITU student, where he took high quality education.

Students were on practice somewhere in Baltic States when the war began. VITU was evacuated to Yaroslavl. All exams were passed there in rush and all students were sent to the front...

To the end of the war behind Poplyayev's shoulders was Sevastopol defence, captivity, escape from captivity, then partisan detachment on Ukraine. Partisan detachment-mate saved him from soviet filtration camp, where Georgy was placed after Ukraine liberation from Nazis. ...thanks to his partisan commanders support naval engineer Poplyayev got a new assignment to the detachment EPRON (Russian acronym for Special Purpose Underwater Works Expedition) – dedicated to restoration of bridges, tunnels, harbours and seaport structures. First he served at Koenigsberg, later on he was sent to Riga to build bridges across Daugava river. After military service completion following friends advice he took job in one of Riga's school, where he began to teach Physics and instantly won the sympathy of senior pupils.

When in 1951 in Riga was constructed school number 13 (first new Russian school after the war) – «Gift from Stalin», all best teachers were invited to teach there and Poplyayev was among them...

– It was impossible do not love him, – remember today his greyhaired former pupils. – He shed so powerful light, and won the hearts of absolutely all of us. He was an indisputable authority: God forbid slip up in front of him. For us he was the luminary. Even something negative in him attracted us. Georgy Andreevich in our eyes always was on a pedestal. He was unreachable peak.

He attracted guys by his knowledge and artistic skills. All his pupils remember a circle which he usually have draw just by one deft movement – and absolutely precisely, like with pair of compasses (guys checked that!). No one could reproduce this his «trick». But all Poplyayev's power was not in such spectacular tricks, of course...

His deep naval engineer knowledge and skills, adopted to school audience, – that made guys their teacher adherents. Of course, he taught as a master, forcing guys to make conclusions themselves... Under his careful guidance they also deduced Physics formulae themselves. What could be compared with exultation of man, who made a discovery just like Archimedes, Pascal, or Lavoisier?! For all these men who everyday overcame himself and who explored laws of nature, Poplyayev was a commander and an inspirer to all of them.

– He always spoke clearly and distinctly. No water, nothing superfluous, – tell Georgy Andreevich pupils. – We learned using his synopses not only in school but in institutes too... He taught us to think. To every phenomenon he applied systematic approach, considering things from different views, and this way he actually formed out our conviction, that all life phenomena also should be analysed in this approach. That helps us till now.

...Poplyayev suggested pupils to consider life like a Physics task, taking into account interaction of different forces. Therefore he not only left his trace, but made an influence on his pupils destiny. He **was** a prophet in his own country...

We think, Georgy Andreevich, didn't confessing himself in this, was outstanding pedagogue. And he never been timeserver: he always talked people the truth, not looking on ranks or titles. That led to conflicts. As a rule, «education» bureaucrats were forced to bear Poplyayev's stinging remarks because he was unique in Riga. He has created the

school gloria . In middle 60-th school 13-th resounded not only throughout Riga – it was well known in Moscow, in Leningrad, where its school-leaver were coming to enter to the best institutes...