



Dr. Leonid E. Rodin, premier Soviet plant ecologist, has been awarded an Honorary Foreign Membership in the Ecological Society of America. Dr. Rodin has had an exemplary and wide-ranging professional career, covering most aspects of Soviet ecology, that has now spanned almost 60 years, beginning in the early 1930s with his scientific expeditions to Central Asia at the time of the last caravans.

Dr. Rodin was born in Warsaw, Poland on 22 February 1907. He completed his formal education at Leningrad State University in 1931, and received his Doctor of Science degree in 1957. He was a delegate to the First International Congress of Ecology, held in The Hague, The Netherlands in 1974. The following year, he was instrumental in the organization of both program and field trips in conjunction with the XIth International Botanical Congress, held in Leningrad, and attended by numerous members of the Ecological Society of America. He was both a willing translator during conversation, and a gracious host for the many visiting ecologists.

He has had an unusually productive career, with over 250 research papers, monographs, and books, mostly published in Russian and covering his research specialty, the productivity, mineral cycling, and grazing management of arid lands, principally the deserts of Central Asia. Other research has produced a

monograph on the vegetation dynamics of Turkmenia, vegetation maps of South America, Central Asia, other Old World Desert regions, and of the Soviet Union, as well as papers on the forests of the Tien-Shan Mountains and the wetlands of Central Asia. While he has traveled widely outside the Soviet Union for research and international meetings, he has not been to the United States to visit the desert regions of North America.

The English-speaking community is familiar with some of his translated publications, including *Production and Mineral Cycling in Terrestrial Vegetation* (with N. I. Bazilevich), published by Oliver and Boyd in 1967, and *Productivity of the World's Main Ecosystems* (with N. I. Bazilevich and N. N. Rozov) in *Productivity of World Ecosystems* published in 1975 by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. His arid land research has been published in numerous English language compendia, including *Arid Land Ecosystems: Structure, Functioning and Management*, edited by D. W. Goodall and R. A. Perry, 1981, Cambridge University Press.

Since retirement, he has continued to be active in ecology, and has demonstrated an outstanding dedication to science and to the world community of scientists. At the age of 81, he continues to study and to write. In 1988, he traveled to Siberia, principally to the Kamchatka Peninsula, to collect information for a new book on the natural vegetation of that region. It is a privilege and an honor for the Ecological Society of America to bestow Honorary Membership upon Dr. Leonid E. Rodin.

Written by Robert L. Burgess  
SUNY College of Environmental  
Science and Forestry

and

W. Carter Johnson  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and  
State University  
Selection Committee  
(for both Honorary Members)

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