

Shiryaev's interview (video version)

7:00min – 30:00 min

Professor Dynkin: Could you say something about Komarovka? I know that you established a museum there.

Professor Shiryaev: Everything is done using my own funds. Komarovka is taken care of. There is a memorial part: rooms of Kolmogorov and Alexandrov. There is a library, a dining room. All of it is fully preserved.

Quite recently, after my multiple efforts, the Ministry of Culture declared it as a building of national historic value - federal or regional. To me it is very important because if the writ protection. There is a large quantity of land there. The 'New Russians' are advancing. We will not live forever. I have to think about the future. The state permission is now issued. The process took a lot of my effort because it was necessary to collect the corresponding papers for it: photos, description, the history. This house was declared as a building of historic value. Alekseev – Stanislavsky's father – established the first Elisavetinsky drop-in hospital here, and it also was Kolmogorov's and Aleksandrov's house later.

D: Kolmogorov and Aleksandrov bought this house?

S: They bought it.

D: They started paying for it right away, I think.

S: They were paying it off for a long time. They completed the payment only in the fifties.

D: They were not especially rich people.

S: At the end of his life, Andrei Nikolaevich, I can precisely tell, received 340 rubles as a member of the Academy of Science, and 430 rubles as a university professor. He did not have any other income. Multitudes of money needed to be paid to the nurse alone. I once told Anna Dmitriyevna: "Andrei Nikolaevich has any foreign currency so, should we take it to buy him some fruits?" And she said: "I do not have any money."

D: Did he give away his Balzan Prize?

S: The state took away a part of it. He went to Mikoyan to get permission to donate.

D: For a library?

S: Yes. And they left him with an epsilon.

D: Epsilon for that library or for himself?

S: He was allowed to spend his Balzan Prize on that library. He was left with an epsilon. Sometimes I bought his medications using that money. But I was buying most of his medication using my own money because it was necessary to demonstrate to the Ministry of Finance what the Bolzan Prize money was needed for. When Kolmogorov was diagnosed with the Parkinson's disease, he needed a certain medication. This medication was available in America at that time - Parlodel Bromocriptine. It was discovered by chance. It was intended to restore the lactation in women. But the brain centers responsible for the Parkinson's disease and the lactation are adjacent to each other. I bought this medication and it did not have any effect. Once, when I arrived, I saw that Andrei Nikolaevich and Anna Dmitriyevna were sad. Anna Dmitriyevna said: "There is such Juna..."

D: I have heard about Juna. Everyone knows her.

S: There is such Juna, a healer. I asked Andrei Nikolaevich: "Do you believe in such things?" He said: "I believe in self-suggestion". I said: "Andrei Nikolaevich, how did you find out about Juna?" And he said: "It is written in the *Technology for the Youth (Техника молодежи)* magazine." I said: "No problem. The editor-in-chief of this magazine – Vasilii Zakharchenko – is a very good acquaintance of mine. I know him from mountain-skiing trainings. He was the president of a mountain-skiing federation. I called him. He told me: "Alik, take a pen or a pencil and write down the following address: Kutuzovsky Avenue, such-and-such house number, such-and-such entrance number, such-and-such code, such-and-such phone number."

D: And how did it go?

S: I called, arranged an appointment with Juna, and brought Andrei Nikolaevich. She accepted her patients in a polyclinic of the State Plan near the Belarusian Train Station. She placed Andrei Nikolaevich on a bed, and attached some sensors to him. There was a "Bioskript" system there. She said: "I want to see if he will react to me or not." She sat down near his feet and started to talking and moving her hand. She asked: "Do you feel anything right now?" He said: "Some pinching, as from electric discharges." And really, the amplitudes on the system display were changing rapidly. We decided that he reacts to the therapy and that we will continue the treatment. When we were leaving, we met Glushkov in the doorway. I knew Glushkov and we talked. I thought that he came here to examine her, because there was a huge campaign against her and against the spiritual healing, as it was considered to be a non-scientific method. However, turned out that he had cancer and he was looking for the last opportunity to heal. He died soon. We did not have a chance to see Juna again.

I found out that Pontecorvo visited Juna. I know the son of Pontecorvo from mountain-skiing training. I call Gilles, and I speak: "Gilles, I want to know whether your father visited Juna? What was the result?" He said: "Father is here. Talk to him." I started talking to Pontecorvo and asked: "Did you visit Juna?" He never answered. He was telling me: "You understand, I as the scientist..." for the entire time, but then he said: "I recently received a treatise from the Institute of Parkinson's Disease in the USA, from my friends-physicists, and it was very useful." He sent it to me. I began to read and saw the bold print which stated that Bromocriptine should not be taken along with the vitamins B12 or B6. I met with Andrei Nikolaevich and asked: "What vitamins are you taking?" He was prescribed "Undevit" and "Gindivit" at the academic polyclinic, and there was a multitude of these vitamins in these pills. He stopped taking these vitamins, and then his tremor terminated, the saliva ceased to overflow, and the medication started working. Therefore, there was no reason to go to Juna.

D: Yes

S: Andrei Nikolaevich lost a lot of weight when his health condition deteriorated. He was in Komarovka at that time. I was with him and it became clear to me that he will die soon. I decided that if he will die, it should happen in the Kremlin Hospital. I wrote various papers for the signature of the president and the Academy., but there were no results. Everything depended on Chazov. Chazov was the Minister of Health Care. I asked Kadomtsev: "Call Chazov. Organize a meeting with him for me". And he called. I arrived to Chazov. He started shouting at me about that they granted a lot of money already, and that the treatment is good at the Academy of Science Hospital. And I told him: "You know, I was in the luxury suite and saw some curtains hanging there. These are not curtains. These are the bed sheets stained with iodine." Probably another person would not tell him something like this. Chazov granted the permission to accept Kolmogorov into the Kremlin Hospital. I arrived to Andrei Nikolaevich. He developed pneumonia. I said: "You should be placed to the Kremlin Hospital". "Why?" "Because you have pneumonia". And he suddenly said: "I will not go". It was a problem because the hospital suit was ready, the car was ready. Several days later he said that he will go.

D: He died there? Where did he die?

S: In the Kremlin hospital. He could not talk well. I brought Anna Dmitriyevna to him several hours prior to his death. He was laying, she was sitting, and he started talking about their life. And he was speaking very clearly. I walked out. I could not bear it. Then I simply observed that the curved line on the oscillograph turned into nearly a straight one. This is how it happened.

D: How long did his illness last?

S: About 10 – 12years, but with pauses. It began after he got hit by a door. There were two doors there, and the first door hit him when it was windy.

D: What year was that in, approximately?

S: It I was in 1975. A tomography was necessary. There were only two tomographs in Moscow at that time: one was in the Kremlin hospital, and the second one was in the Institute of Burdenko. It was impossible to get into the Kremlin hospital. Then someone told me that Israel Moiseevich is actively involved with the Institute of Burdenko. I called him and asked: "Is it possible to arrange a tomography?" And he said: "You have to understand that all people are mortal". That was all. What could one say? I hung up. Then I found out who the director was. It was Konovalov Alexander Nikolaevich. I taught him mountain skiing. I called him and said: "Shura, where are you working?" He said: "At the Institute of Burdenko" , "And what is your position there?" "I am the director". I told him what I needed. He said: "No problem, come tomorrow". We arrived, got everything done. There were no mechanical damages.

D: How is it related to the Parkinson's disease? What this attitude towards Parkinson has? In general, I do not know what causes the Parkinson's disease..

S: Probably nobody knows. It suddenly emerged in Andrei Nikolaevich.

D: What were the symptoms? Tremors?

S: The tremor started, as well as salivation.

D: Does the lowering of consciousness occur in the case of this illness?

S: No. It is an amazing thing because, say, he dictated the text for the Bernuli's Congress in Tashkent to me and to Tikhomirov in separate phrases for two or three days. Then, when all of this was compiled together, the text turned out to be absolutely logical. At the same time Morutyan was filming a movie about Kolmogorov. When Morutyan told Andrei Nikolaevich that "you spoke here-and-there, so-and-so", Andrei Nikolaevich said: "I did not say it this way. I said it that way."

Translation completed by Mariya Boyko.